

### THE DAILY NEWSPAPER

Such inventions of the second press period as the magnetic telegraph began to produce results during the third. These improvements contributed greatly to the growing "day-to-dayness" of the newspapers of the new Dominion, and accounted in no small measure for the growing sense of nearness of distant events previously referred to. The daily paper increasingly dominated the newspaper field. Whereas there had been 20 daily newspapers in Upper and Lower Canada in 1857, the provinces that entered Confederation in 1867 had 46 dailies in 1874, 61 in 1881, 91 in 1891, and 121 in 1900. It should not be inferred from the relative increase in importance of the daily that, in absolute terms, the weekly was declining. The table on p. 930 shows otherwise. Moreover, the weekly had not completely abdicated the national and international news field in favour of the daily newspaper to become the community press as it was largely to do by the mid-twentieth century. The continuing interest of the weekly in matters of larger than regional concern was particularly evident in the press of Western Canada.

The increase in daily newspaper numbers conveys the magnitude of the change occurring only when considered in conjunction with the accompanying circulation growth, and also with the fact that a daily is issued six times as often as a weekly. In 1900, daily newspapers had 570,000 subscribers. *La Presse* led the field with a circulation of 66,500, the *Montreal Star* following with 50,312, the *Toronto News* had 43,635 and the *Toronto Globe*, 36,000. It should be noted that technological change was not the only factor contributing to this rise of newspaper circulations. More advantageous postal rates, a larger population and a continuous growth of literacy had their effects as well.

Another consequence of improved press equipment was a rise in press costs. Thus, in 1883, the *Regina Leader*, not Canada's largest newspaper by any means, was established with a capital of \$20,000. Nor was the *Vancouver Province* the richest journal in Canada in 1899 when it had a capitalization of \$100,000. Such enterprises as these required larger staffs than their 1856 predecessors. In place of the publisher-printer-editor factotum who had issued his news-sheet in 1837 Rebellion days, 86 persons were employed on the *News-Advertiser*, *World*, and *Telegram* in Vancouver in 1892. In 1899, the *Vancouver Province* was produced by an editor, a subscription manager, city editor, advertising manager, three reporters, an accountant, two clerks, a composing-room foreman, six compositors, a pressroom foreman and two stereotypers. *La Presse*, having a circulation thirteen times as great, obviously required a larger staff.

### PRESS ORGANIZATIONS

A new element of the newspaper story during the period was the beginning of press associations. The most important of these was the Canadian Press Association, which was started in 1859. It was in no sense a closely knit professional body, but rather a loose confraternity of journalists whose main interests were social and occupational rather than business. It had as lesser counterparts the Province of Quebec Press Association, founded in 1876; Eastern Ontario Press Association, 1879; Presse Associée de la Province de Québec, 1882; Eastern Townships Press Association, 1889; Western Canada Press Association, and the Ottawa Valley Press Association.

### GAINS IN PRESS FREEDOM

The third press period brought important gains in newspaper freedom. Whereas earlier progress had been accomplished through court trials and a widening tolerance in related fields, the new advances were achieved through new legislation. The advantage gained was twofold: in the first place, the new laws granted certain concessions not previously permitted under common law practice; secondly, by defining what a newspaper was and by making more explicit what did and what did not constitute defamation in the press, these enactments permitted editors to see more clearly what publishing ground was safe and what was dangerous. The areas of greatest gain were in the definition of defences open against libel charges and a spelling out of the types of report which were to be privileged in the press.