

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS*

In February 1958 there were 141 ethnic group publications in Canada. Fifteen of these were written entirely in English and five partly in English. The remainder employed neither of Canada's two official languages. Most of the ethnic group press consisted of weekly, semi-monthly and monthly journals but there were some semi-weeklies, tri-weeklies, bi-monthlies, quarterlies and annuals as well. Four Chinese and two Jewish papers were dailies. Many of the ethnic journals were religious publications. Canada's foreign language groups were represented as follows:

Byelorussian.....	1	Jewish.....	12
Chinese.....	6	Latvian.....	2
Croat.....	1	Lithuanian.....	5
Czech.....	4	Maltese.....	1
Dutch.....	11	Norwegian.....	3
Estonian.....	2	Polish.....	4
Finnish.....	5	Russian.....	3
German.....	19	Serbian.....	3
Greek.....	1	Slovak.....	3
Hungarian.....	5	Slovenian.....	2
Icelandic.....	4	Swedish.....	2
Italian.....	5	Swiss (English).....	1
Japanese.....	2	Ukrainian.....	34

THE ADEQUACY OF THE MODERN PRESS OF CANADA

A question that may well be asked concerning the modern press of Canada, as it is asked of the newspapers of other civilized nations, is this: how well is it reflecting and reporting the contemporary world. The enormously improved news-gathering devices of mid-century journalism are, of course, making a vast difference in both world and national news coverage. But in one respect today's journals are perhaps doing a less effective job of recording those aspects of life of concern to the reader than did the newspapers of 1850 in relation to its subscribers. That is not to say that the modern editor and reporter are less able or less conscientious than their nineteenth-century predecessors. Quite the contrary. It is just that today's man of the press has an incredibly harder task—the society he has to describe and interpret has become infinitely more complex than the simple, uncomplicated world of Howe and Mackenzie and Parent.

It is extremely difficult for the modern newspaper reporter or editor to be so well grounded in all the areas of human activity that he can report and interpret every field with equal skill. Ideally, the publisher should hire as reporters and editors specialists, each of whom is competent in his own particular field—but that is an economic impossibility, newspaper costs being what they are today. Therefore the publisher must content himself with hiring 'generalists'—reporters whose knowledge is wide rather than deep. Although it is possible that eventually such inventions as the facsimile newspaper will so drastically reduce other press costs that the publisher may be able to afford the luxury of a large staff of specialists, the present hope of an improved press for Canada seems to lie with those men of the press who are constantly striving to extend and improve their knowledge of the world about them.

* Information from *List of Ethnic Group Publications in Canada*, by Dr. V. J. Kay, Department of Citizenship and Immigration, Ottawa.