

I always endeavored to keep the paper in the van of progress. The first editorial that ever appeared in an Island paper, favoring the construction of a narrow-gauge railway on the Island appeared in *The Argus* on Nov. 15, 1870. The first article advocating the abolition of imprisonment for debt appeared in *The Argus*. One of the first papers to see that Confederation was inevitable was *The Argus*. One of the first and firmest supporters of a compulsory Land Purchase Act was the *Argus*. One of the first to call for a decimal currency—to substitute dollars and cents for pounds, shillings and pence was *The Argus*; and one of the first and most strenuous advocates for the abolition of the Legislative Council—the one vital reform it ever championed that failed—was *The Argus*. I really feel a degree of pride when I look back and think that my unpretending little sheet helped to roll along the car of progress.

I do not state these facts in a boastful spirit. Neither do I claim that *The Argus* exerted a great influence in bringing these reforms about. I merely state the facts. I suppose they would have come about if *The Argus* never existed. But I do claim that it was always in the fight, that its face was turned in the right direction, and that it was never happier than when using the little power it had in trying to roll away the stone from the sepulchre of progress. And in the advocacy of progressive measures the editor of *The Argus* often suffered much, and was often compelled to part company with many of his best and warmest friends. These were the most trying ordeals through which he had to pass. To bear the contumely and reproach of men who were not yet ready to accept radical reforms was comparatively easy to bear, because the day when the golden beam would incline to the side of perfect justice was sure to come. But to incur the displeasure and forfeit the friendship of old-time friends and near relatives, is a matter that tries men's souls and harrows the feelings as nothing else can. Many an hour of pain and anguish did I pass, asking myself what should be done. On the one side there would be duty; on the other the severance of friendships, the breaking of party ties. Any one who thinks that it is an easy thing to break away from a political party with whom he has worked for many years, and join another that he