

## The Press in P. E. Island.

"Long looked for, come at last," will undoubtedly be your expression on receiving this, a fulfilment of a long unfulfilled promise. As it is almost entirely written from memory, many inaccuracies will probably occur as to dates, etc., and the names of some publications may be overlooked. Should such be the case, some parties familiar with the past history of the press in P. E. Island will kindly correct and give a more explicit account of "old times."

## CHARLOTTETOWN.

One of the earliest newspapers published in Charlottetown was the *Prince Edward Island Register*. Its first issue was given to the public on the 26th July, 1823. James Douglass Haszard was the editor and proprietor. The *Register* was edited in a vigorous style and was the leading paper for several years. Mr. Haszard shortly after became Queen's Printer, and changed the name to the *Royal Gazette*, and afterwards to *Haszard's Gazette*. Its publication was suspended in 1858.

The paper published prior to this was the *Prince Edward Island Times*, of which the whole edition only amounted to 65 copies.

On the 2nd December, 1842, was issued the *Islander*, John Ings proprietor and publisher. It became after a time the organ of the "Tory" party, and was the leading paper on the Island during its long career of 31 years, under Mr. Ings' proprietorship. Mr. Ings, in 1873, sold out to Messrs. Macdougall, Brennan & Co., but under its new ownership it did not long survive, its publication ceasing in 1874. Mr. Ings, who was Queen's Printer for 16 or 20 years, also published, in conjunction with the *Islander*, a small semi-weekly called the *Express*, which was issued for about a year.

In 1843, Edward Whelan, then in his 19th year, and who served his apprenticeship with the Hon. Joseph Howe, then proprietor of the *Nova Scotian*, in Halifax, came to Charlottetown and commenced the publication of a journal, in the interest of the "Liberal" party, called the *Palladium*, which only lived a short time, to be resuscitated under the name of the *Examiner*, which he continued to publish until his death, in 1867, when it was purchased by Walter C. Grant. It afterwards fell into the hands of J. S. Carvell (now Senator), P. R. Bowers, editor and manager. After this it

went through the hands of some other parties, and is now published by a company, with W. L. Cotton as manager. Mr. Whelan was probably the foremost newspaper writer in the Maritime Provinces. He was also an orator of no mean ability.

From 1846 to 1862 there were several short-lived ventures in the journalistic field. The *Advertiser*, published by Pippy & Rice; the *Constitutionalist*, by Burriss Brothers; the *Colonial Monitor*, by Cooper & Bremner; and the *People's Journal*, by A. McNeill, which changed hands five or six times before collapsing.

After the suspension of the *Colonial Monitor*, Mr. Cooper started the *Monitor*, which was issued until 1865. Mr. Cooper's sons, Henry and James, shortly afterwards started the *Weekly Bulletin*, which succumbed after a year or two.

About the year 1859 John Ross commenced the publication of *Ross's Weekly*, which he continued until 1866, when his printing office was burned in the great fire of that year. The plucky and enterprising proprietor continued its publication from a job office, but it did not survive many weeks. He also published a paper called the *Semi-Weekly Advertiser*, in connection with the weekly, for about a year. He started, two years afterwards, the *North Star*, which lived for a couple of years.

In 1862, the present Lieutenant Governor Laird, of the Northwest Territory, issued the *Protestant*, which he afterwards changed to the *Patriot*, which is still published under the able editorship of Mr. Henry Lawson, Mr. Laird retiring a few years ago.

In 1863, the *Vindicator*, a Catholic journal, published by Messrs. Reilly & Doyle, made its appearance, but after a year the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Reilly changed the name to the *Herald*, which he continued to issue till his death, in 1871. It is now published by Prof. Cavan.

About 1869, Mr. J. H. Fletcher purchased the plant of the *North Star*, and commenced the publication of the *Island Argus*, which he still continues to issue.

In 1873, Mr. P. R. Bowers started the *New Era*, which still exists.

In 1873, a tri-weekly paper was issued by P. S. MacGowan, called the *Evening News*, but it did not prove a success.

In July, 1875, the *P. E. Island Times* made its appearance. It was published by a company,