

feared no one took it. But the mills yielded me a pretty fair profit and these profits were put against the losses on the paper, and so I held my own.

The other papers did not give me a very cordial reception. Some of them thought it was quite presumptuous in a country boy to attempt to run a paper in the capital city. And it did look a good deal that way to myself. I felt this very keenly, and when anyone introduced me to another as an editor, instead of swelling my head, it seemed to humiliate me. I was not ignorant of my defects, and I supposed these people had sized me up as I had sized myself. It imposed on me a title which I often found it inconvenient to uphold. And it was little wonder that I felt so, for among the editorial writers of the day were the Hon. Judge Pope, of the *Islander*, Hon. David Laird, of the *Patriot*, Professor John Caven, Donald Currie, Henry Lawson and Patrick Reilly, Esquires. But I had many friends in the country, and they used to say to me: "Your paper is just as good as any of them—stick to it." And I did.

Quite a number of the prominent men of the city, after a few issues of the paper, rendered me good service and substantial sympathy. Among these I might name Hon. Benj. Davies, Neil Rankin, W. R. Watson, Robert Shaw, W. E. Dawson, William Heard, A. McNeill, Hon. Donald Ferguson, Col. Gray and a few others. I had much to learn, and I set about it as though I was entering school for the first time. The most difficult and important task I sought to accomplish was to conceal my own ignorance.

The first issue of *The Island Argus* appeared on Nov. 4th, 1869, and the last in 1882. I believe the period during which *The Argus* was a factor—from 1870 to 1883—was the most important period in the history of Prince Edward Island. It was during this period that imprisonment for debt was abolished; that the compulsory Land Purchase Bill—a measure by which the rent-paying system was done away with—went into operation; that the railway system was inaugurated; that confederation with Canada was accomplished; that the change of currency took place, and many other reforms were effected. In connection with these important events *The Argus* played a prominent part.