

Historical Sketch of a Great Newspaper



THE origin, struggles, progress, success and policies of a great newspaper make up an ever-interesting and important record. When to these conditions is added the further one of a striking personality behind the enterprise as a business, and within the newspaper as a journalistic force, the historical record is still more attractive. It was two years after Confederation that the Montreal Star was founded by an ambitious young man with a certain shrewdness of disposition, with a few years' experience as a book-keeper and business manager on other papers, with plenty of pluck and something under a hundred dollars in cash capital. Associated with Hugh Graham in this extraordinary undertaking was a brilliant journalistic writer of that day, George T. Lanigan. The first issue of the paper was on January 16th, 1869, under the name of "The Evening Star," the business office was at 64 St. James Street, and the tiny editorial rooms were at 9 Ste. Therese Street; the price was one cent, and the paper had 4 pages of 6 columns each or 24 in all. Of these, 14 were filled with reading matter and 10 devoted to advertising. In 1910 it is still an evening one-cent journal but its proprietor is said to be a millionaire and its size runs from 20 to 36 pages of 8 columns each.

The old buildings in which the paper started are no longer in existence; the conditions in which it was at first published have changed almost absolutely. The Montreal of that day had a population of one hundred thousand, today it is half a million; the property assessment of the city was \$53,000,000, it is now over



The Montreal Star's First Home