



THE DUTTON ENTERPRISE, 1881-1891.

The Dutton Enterprise was founded on 29 December 1881 by Wilbur Franklin Phelps (Dec. 30, 1861 - Aug. 5, 1932) when he was turning twenty years old. It was a four-page weekly, independent in politics. With the issue of March 19, 1885, W. F. Phelps left the business which was taken over by his older brother Norman Phelps (June 16, 1852 - Dec. 23, 1927). At the end of 1888 Norman Phelps announced his withdrawal from the business, which was then assumed by R. Sutherland. In his "Valedictory" of Dec. 27, 1888, Norman Phelps noted,

The ENTERPRISE was started seven years ago this issue by W. F. Phelps with premature appearance, but we are thankful that with economy and hard work we have made a living and increased the plant. W.F. Phelps conducted the business until 1885, when he withdrew, leaving ourselves with but little experience to manage alone. However, we overcame the difficulties as they presented themselves and have, we believe, the business at present in the best state of its existence.

With the issue of Feb. 14, 1889 (v. 8, no. 8) the format was changed from four large pages to eight small pages. The file available for microfilming ends with the issue of 19 Dec. 1889 (v. 8, no. 51), but the paper continued until November 5, 1891, at the latest, for in

...continued...

the Dutton Advance for Nov. 12, 1891, notice is made that the two papers have been combined as of that date.

The original files of the DUTTON ENTERPRISE are owned by the Dutton Advance, Dutton, Ontario. Some missing issues were lent by the Elgin County Library, St. Thomas, Ontario.

LIST OF MISSING ISSUES: (not located at time of filming)

- 1883: August 9, 16; Dec. 27.
- 1884: Feb. 28.
- 1885: July 23.
- 1886: August 12, 26.
- 1888: August 23.
- 1889: Dec. 26.
- 1890: entire year.
- 1891: entire year (publishing ceased Nov. 5, 1891).

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