

Ontario's first newspaper, the Upper Canada Gazette, was printed in Newark (Niagara) in 1793. As in the Maritimes and Quebec presses quickly sprang up in other parts of the provinces and by the 1830's Upper Canada, which had started 30-40 years behind the other provinces, had begun to play an important part in Canadian journalism.

Up to the middle of the 19th century the Canadian West, embracing more than three quarters of Canada's area between the Great Lakes and the Pacific Ocean, was still inhabited only by buffaloes and Indians. The art of printing, which normally follows in the wake of civilization, preceded it in the West, and, as in the case of Mexico and New England, it was to religion that printing owed its introduction there. A Methodist missionary, James Evans, devised a home-made press to help in the instruction of his Indian converts. Using types made of melted musket balls and the lead lining of tea chests, he moulded Indian characters, and with ink made of soot succeeded in 1841 in printing a Cree spelling book and hymns on birch bark. It was not until nearly 20 years later, however, that commercial printing developed in the West. The first public press established on the Island of Vancouver was French, and its first product was a literary and political paper called Le Courrier de la Nouvelle Calédonie, issued in 1858. This was followed shortly by several English papers. Reports of gold resulted in a rapid increase of the population and within six months there were four newspapers in British Columbia of which one, the Victoria Colonist, still survives.

The West opened up rapidly. In 1859 two printers from Ontario arrived at Fort Garry in the region now known as Manitoba and established The Nor'-Wester. Though its circulation was small in numbers this early newspaper was widely distributed to all the Hudson's Bay Company posts. It is one of the most valuable sources of information on the history of the West. After the creation of Manitoba in 1870 other newspapers followed, both French and English.

In 1878 the first regular printing press was established in Saskatchewan. Its first newspaper, the Saskatchewan Herald, is still appearing. By the 1880's the art of printing was firmly established throughout Western Canada, in areas which thirty years before had been uninhabited.

Apart from newspapers and government printing the early press produced little beyond sermons, pamphlets and the ever-popular almanac. The almanacs, some of which continued for many years, are a mine of information on Canadian history. They were perhaps the earliest precursors of books in Canada.

The pioneer journalists worked under conditions that were anything but easy. In addition to editing a paper, the owner was frequently news-gatherer, writer, compositor, type-setter, proof-reader, printer and distributor. They had to be men of character and tenacity to survive. Radical in their outlook, they tended to be strong individualists. More than one was imprisoned for views which the authorities considered subversive; many in later life became outstanding political figures.

### Development of Publishing

Publishing, as distinct from printing which is a straight manufacturing process, may be defined as the business of marketing an author's product. An important part of a publisher's business is to find out what people want to read and to provide a varied mental diet to satisfy a great variety of tastes, moods and interests. The promotion of new books and the financial risk taken on each is an inherent part of the business. A firm which produces a book at the author's risk is not, in the strict sense of the word, a publishing firm at all, but a printing firm.

Before 1900 there was little publishing done in Canada, either French or English, except educational text books, religious publications and books about Canada such as the Remarkable History of the Hudson's Bay Company by Dr. George Bryce; Canadian Savage Folk (and) The Indians of Canada by Rev. John MacLean; Les anciens Canadiens by Philippe Aubert de Gaspé and L'Histoire du Canada by F. X. Garneau.