

LEWIS W. SHANNON.

PRESIDENT CANADIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION.

THERE are such things as a newspaper family. When the father is a journalist, his sons take in journalistic ideas with their food, their pleasures, and their school learning. The proprietor of The Kingston News up to 1880, Mr. J. Shannon, now postmaster in that city, had two sons, who imbibed journalistic ideas in their youth. Lewis W. Shannon now publishes the paper formerly controlled by his father, and his brother publishes The Ottawa Citizen.



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Kingston has produced some important men, among whom may be mentioned Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Alexander Campbell, now deceased; Sir Oliver Mowat, Sir Richard Cartwright and Jas. Metcalfe, M.P. Lewis W. Shannon writes no letters before or after his name, but already he is one of Kingston's noted sons, and was recently honored in being elected president of the Canadian Press

Association. He is a comparatively young man, having just passed the half-way milestone of the allotted three score and ten. With his genial manner, rare courtesy, soldier-like regularity and undoubted ability, he must maintain a leading position among the moulders of Canadian thought.

At college Mr. Shannon first showed his smouldering talents. He was the smallest and youngest freshman in Queen's University in 1873, and stood over 6 feet when he graduated in 1877 with a record of one scholarship and half a dozen prizes. For the next three years he studied medicine and taught school, capturing a gold medal in the spring of 1880 for honor work in chemistry.

But the fates had decided that he should be neither a pedagogue nor a doctor. He was destined for the Fourth Estate, and in 1880 he purchased The Kingston News, on his father being appointed postmaster. He knew something about the business, for his holidays had been spent kicking a Gordon, washing rollers, smashing type, spoiling costly paper, reporting police-court and marine news, and any odd jobs to which he was assigned. But best of all, he brought to the business an energetic body and a clear brain.

Like all young men, he began with a hustle, but unlike most young men he has kept it up. He enlarged The Daily News from 28 to 32 columns, and The Weekly News successively from 32 to 48, 56 and 64 columns, and finally changed the latter to a six-column quarto, a semi-weekly, at \$1 per year. Moreover, he has kept The News clean in its reading and advertising columns, neat and up to date in its mechanical appearance, and consistent in its political tone.

As a citizen Mr. Shannon is well-known and respected by his fellow-burgers. He was elected alderman in January last. He has risen from the ranks of Kingston's pride, the 14th Battalion, to be its senior major. For a long time he has been one of the city's leading localists, and has been a leader in all its musical organizations, singing in choirs, oratorios and glee clubs.

Even comic operas were not beyond him, and he has figured as the Boatswain in "Pinafore," as the Pirate King in "The Pirates of Penzance," and as the Baillie in "The Chimes of Normandy."

Only at one point has Mr. Shannon been a failure. He is still a bachelor.

Mr. Shannon is a Freemason, and also belongs to other fraternal orders, and stands high in their councils. His breadth of sympathy and heartiness of friendship enable him to count his friends by the score.

J. A. C.

JOHN F. MACKAY.

Commencing as a printer's devil in 1886, it took only nine years for John F. MacKay to become owner and manager of a lively daily and a largely circulated weekly. Like several other prominent Ontario journalists, he began his career in the Woodstock Sentinel-Review office, where he completed his "time" in May, 1889. That he was an ambitious and thoughtful youth at that time is evidenced by the fact that while learning the case at this "Ontario Printers' University," he also learned shorthand and acquired a slight reportorial experience.

City experience was needed, and The Toronto Mail employed Mr. MacKay for a time. Leaving there, he assumed the editorial management of The Examinator Post, it being then owned by John Wigle & Son. Three months after found him joint proprietor with J. E. Johnson, and this continued up to March, 1894, when he sold out his share to Wm. Johnson. On this weekly Mr. MacKay made his mark, and a good clear mark it was. It was a losing concern when he dropped into the editorial chair, and when he departed he left behind a valuable and paying property.

But the change that Mr. MacKay made was to accept a position on the editorial staff of The Chatham Banner. A new company, with J. S. Brierly, of St. Thomas, at its head, had just been formed. Up to this time The Banner had only been weekly, but the "Evening Banner" was at once manufactured and flamed in the breeze of public favor. During the one year that has elapsed, this young journal has become firmly established, with a splendid circulation and a comfortable advertising patronage. At the same time, The Weekly Banner has been boomed and is now one of Ontario's "leaders." Mr. MacKay has thus had a varied experience, and it is just this experience which has enabled him with perfect confidence to take over the management of The Banner, having purchased a large slice of the stock from Mr. Brierly. To-day he has the unique position of being the youngest manager of a Canadian daily newspaper.

He attributes his success to recognizing three principles: (1) The making of local news (including correspondence), the leading feature; (2) Rejecting all objectionable advertising or sensationalism; (3) Always having a first-class paper typographically.

J. A. C.



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