

## ANDREW LAIDLAW.

THE most recent claimant for public favor in the field of provincial journalism is the Galt Daily Reformer, of which Andrew Laidlaw is the editor and proprietor. The youngster is only a fortnight old, but it is live, lusty and full of promise. The Daily Reformer introduced itself without ceremony, and somewhat unexpectedly, to the people of Galt and vicinity, but the success that it has already achieved is proof that it has in truth come to fill the proverbial "long felt want." The paper is a handsome seven column, four page journal, is neatly printed, carefully edited, very newsy and altogether a creditable daily. The advertising patronage is already good and betokens a prosperous career for the new venture.

The Daily Reformer is an off-shoot of the Weekly Galt Reformer. The latter is one of the oldest and best known of Ontario's weeklies. Years ago the Hon. James Young, as editor and proprietor, gave the paper a provincial reputation, and his own management was followed by other capable journalists. In August, 1892, it was purchased by Mr. Laidlaw. At that time the circulation had fallen off, the plant was old and the business generally had considerably deteriorated. Since then the circulation has more than trebled, the business generally has doubled and the office has been equipped anew from stem to stern. It is now one of the most complete newspaper establishments of similar size in the Province.

Though still a young man Mr. Laidlaw has had a good deal of newspaper experience. It began in 1876 when he was Carrier Boy for the Woodstock Sentinel, the publishers of which were Messrs. G. R. and A. Pattullo. He subsequently entered the office as a printer in the year 1882, and having worked at the case for some months was placed in the business office where he remained until the 1st of January, 1886, when he became a partner with Andrew Pattullo, the senior member of the firm. G. R. Pattullo, having previously retired. His partnership continued until 1892, when Mr. Laidlaw withdrew and bought the Reformer. In the business office of the Sentinel Review, during his partnership, Mr. Laidlaw proved himself to be both energetic and successful. The business of the paper was greatly increased, and his shrewdness also as a newspaper man became generally recognized. He is what the Americans call a "hustler," and is ever ready to get what is known among

newspaper men as a "scoop" from his professional confidants. One of these may be mentioned, namely the publication of a fictitious statement of Birchall with reference to any confession that might appear after his death. This was published on the morning of his execution, in the Sentinel Review, and no less than six thousand copies of the paper were sold on the street. The same energy, enterprise, business and newspaper methods that made Mr. Laidlaw successful on the Sentinel Review have been applied to the Reformer and with the most gratifying success. In a journalistic sense Mr. Laidlaw is not controversial, but is rather inclined to get along peacefully with his brethren of the press. When attacked, however, he has just enough Highland blood in his veins to resent it with spirit.

Mr. Laidlaw is a native Canadian. He was born in the Township of Blenheim on March 2<sup>nd</sup> of 1864. His father was the late Captain John Laidlaw, a prominent farmer of the township, and for many years an enthusiastic leader of our volunteer force. His mother is a sister of George R. Pattullo and Andrew Pattullo, of Woodstock. Mr. Laidlaw's wife is the only daughter of the late Rev. J. G. Land, a prominent clergyman of the Methodist church, who died at Hamilton a few years ago.

Apart from his professional work, Mr. Laidlaw has a special fondness for athletic sports. He was for many years an officer and an active member of the W. A. A. A. of Woodstock, an association that has done much to develop athletic sports in Ontario. As a member of the old Beaver lacrosse team of Woodstock, he was also one of its most skillful players, but his



ANDREW LAIDLAW, Editor of the Daily Reformer.

special weakness in the way of sports is for dogs. While a lad he evinced great fondness for them and soon acquired such knowledge of them as to make him an expert. He is now perhaps the best known dog fancier in Canada. His Woodstock kennels were frequent prize-takers at all the great bench shows in America, and his kennels at Galt have been equally so. His favorite dogs are cocker spaniels, and although the development of his taste in this direction had for its purpose primarily only a pleasant pastime, it is understood to have been profitable as well. The sons and daughters of wealthy Americans pay fancy prices for pet dogs, just as they do for fine horses, and few Canadians have seen more of their good money than has Andrew Laidlaw.