
HISTORICAL SKETCH OF A GREAT NEWSPAPER

he broke bail and fled the country. The next point was to get Federal Government action and legislation—something for which M. J. F. Quinn, M.P., in 1897, Senator Dandurand in 1899, and J. A. C. Madore, M.P., in 1901 had strived. The campaign was continued in the columns of the paper through 1906; interviews were published continuously from men of religious, educational, business, moral and public standing; attacks were made upon other and similar financial sharks in the city; a great petition was originated and circulated by the Star asking Parliament to pass a law making this system illegal and impossible; public opinion was thoroughly aroused and Parliament stirred up. On July 13, 1906, a Money-lenders' Act was passed which embodied clauses relieving the present victims of the system and protecting the borrower in future. The Star at once opened a Bureau of Information and started to instruct the public as to the new law and the best way of dealing with or avoiding altogether the net of the usurer.

A movement was next aided by the newspaper which looked to the strengthening of the Montreal General Hospital; On May 20, 1908, a fund was initiated in aid of the Sick Children's Hospital and the collections amounted to over \$25,000; in 1910 the action taken by the Star against C. D. Sheldon, the "financial broker" who took \$1,000,000 out of the people of Montreal was instrumental in (1) compelling him to give up and flee the country; (2) through the offer of a \$10,000 reward was instrumental in having him captured and brought back to trial. So the record might be continued as affecting in a myriad directions the social, moral, political and practical welfare of the people. But enough has been described to explain the rise of this newspaper from days of struggle to days of historic influence and obvious success. Let the figures of average daily circulation in 1901-11 speak finally in this connection:

1901.....	55,991	1906.....	60,952
1902.....	55,081	1907.....	62,837
1903.....	55,127	1908.....	67,104
1904.....	56,786	1909.....	69,301
1905.....	58,124	1910.....	74,874
1911.....	80,000		