

The Newspapers of Toronto.

The News, in giving itself a write-up recently, took occasion to say a few words about newspaper matters generally in the Queen City. Following is a condensation of *The News'* facts, figures and dates :

An actual count shows that there are published in Toronto no less than 55 weekly journals, 60 monthlies, 10 semi-monthlies and 10 quarterly, half-yearly or yearly.

Toronto, then called Little York, had no newspaper until 1791, when *The Upper Canada Gazette* or *American Oracle* was moved over from Niagara with the seat of government. Some time after this Joseph Wilcox started an opposition paper called *The Upper Canada Guardian* or *Freeman's Journal*. In 1817 Dr. Holmes took hold of the *Gazette* and at once improved its title by leaving off the *American Oracle* part of it.

The Observer appeared in 1820, but lasted only a short time and was succeeded by *The Colonial Advocate*, published by William Lyon Mackenzie.

Francis Collins began the publication of *The Canadian Freeman* in 1825, and in 1833 *The Patriot* first appeared. *The Colonist* came out in 1838, being edited by Hugh Scobie, a Scotchman. In 1840 *The Examiner* first made its appearance, and it may be called the precursor of modern journalism in Toronto.

George Brown came to Toronto in 1843 and bought out *The Banner*, which was then published as an organ of the Free Presbyterian church. From *The Banner* sprang *The Globe*, which first appeared as a weekly in 1844, as a semi-weekly in 1846, as a tri-weekly in 1849, and as the first daily in Ontario in 1853. Geo. Brown died in 1880, was succeeded by his brother, J. Gordon Brown, who, a few years after his accession, was succeeded by John Cameron, of the *London Advertiser*, who in turn made way for the present conductor of that paper, J. W. Willison. C. W. Taylor is business manager of *The Globe*.

The News omits all mention of *The Leader* and *The Liberal*, the latter of which had a short existence somewhere about 1873, being managed by John Cameron, of London. *The Leader*, we believe, was started somewhere in the fifties and dropped out of the field in the early seventies. There was also *The Courier* somewhere about 1832 and *The Mirror* later on.

The Daily Telegraph, Robertson & Cook, proprietors, appeared in 1866 and continued until 1872, when it ceased publication.

The Mail came into existence in 1872, under the management of T. C. Patteson, Toronto's present postmaster. In 1877 it was purchased by John Riordan, of St. Catharines, who converted the business into a joint-stock company, with C. W. Bunting as managing director and Wm. J. Douglas as secretary, which positions both gentlemen still hold.

The Telegram appeared in 1876, with John Ross Robertson as proprietor, and immediately became a success, and has, unlike all its city contemporaries, had an uninterrupted career of prosperity under the control of its founder.

The World made its debut in 1880, with its present proprietor, W. F. Maclean, M.P., as one of its founders.

Next in order came *The News* in 1881. In its early days it was managed by E. E. Shepard, who retired in 1887 and made room for George Darby, who also retired about six months ago and made way for the present manager, William Douglas, eldest son of W. J. Douglas, of *The Mail*.

Then for a few years no new papers were started in Toronto, but through the defection from the Conservative cause of *The Mail* about 1886 that political party decided to have another organ and *The Empire* appeared with the year 1887. Its proprietor is a joint-stock company, and David Creighton has managed the paper and the business from the beginning.

Youngest amongst Toronto's dailies is *The Star*, which came into existence as a workingman's paper in the fall of 1893, being edited by Thos. A. Gregg, formerly editor of *The News*. After a brief career *The Star* suspended but was resuscitated after a few months by a joint-stock company, of which J. J. Crabbe is the managing director and editor of the paper.

A record of Toronto's daily newspapers would not be complete without *The Sun*, which was born and died within a few days in the winter of 1893-4. E. A. Macdonald officiated as obstetrician and also at the obsequies.

ECONOMY.—Parke Rowe: I don't see why you editorial writers don't come right out and sign your articles.

Fullerton: My dear fellow, space on that page is worth two dollars a line!—Puck.

It was in the time of Cromwell, we believe, that an illiterate soldier contrived to spell the word "usage" without a single letter properly belonging to it. He wrote it "yowzitch," and, when told that the spelling was incorrect, declared nobody could spell with a quill pen from an Irish goose.