

gradually increased in length; and as the importance of the innovation became apparent, the *Toronto Leader*, too, in the course of time appointed its special correspondent at Montreal. Mr. Sellars took credit to himself for being the first man in the country to send special news by telegraph to a large Canadian daily, and often referred to the matter with pardonable pride.

"Among the noted events, though of comparatively late occurrence, which I remember copying while I was alone in Toronto office late at night receiving telegraphic news, with only a messenger-boy to keep me company, are the shooting of President Lincoln, in the theater at Washington, by Wilkes Booth, and the shooting of D'Arcy McGee, at the door of his boarding-house at Ottawa, by James Whalen. At this time the night work in the telegraph office here was light, and one operator could manage it easily. The news of President Lincoln's assassination was received in Toronto at 11 p.m., and it need scarcely be said, created a great sensation. The *Toronto Leader* was the only paper in Canada, outside of Ottawa, to contain, on the morning after the murder, an account of the shooting of D'Arcy McGee. Many will remember George Gregg, who then represented the *Leader* at Ottawa. He was regarded as the best-equipped newspaper man in the country, and could do anything about a newspaper office, from setting type to writing editorials. Parliament was in session at the time, and on the evening of the assassination we telegraphers had got the signal "30," meaning "Good-night," from Ottawa on the *Globe* and *Leader* reports, when, a few minutes later, and just as I was going out of the office door, Ottawa hurriedly called me up—it was then between two and three in the morning—and sent 200 or 300 words of a dispatch to the *Leader*, giving a succinct account of the murder that startled the whole country. It happened that Gregg's boarding-house lay in the same direction from the Parliament buildings as that of D'Arcy McGee, and on his way home he gathered sufficient particulars of the tragedy which had just taken place to make a very readable story, and hurrying back to the Ottawa telegraph office, had it forwarded to his paper. All the other reporters at the capital representing outside journals missed this sensational piece of news."

We are in receipt of a handsome pamphlet from the Balcock Printing Press Co. on the virtues of the "Standard" Press. Twenty-five pages are devoted to flattering words from their patrons such as: "The best press for doing all classes of work"; "Just the press to do first-class work"; "Am delighted with it"; "Not one cent for repairs"; "The best press for the money".

## JOE HOWARD

EVERY newspaper man knows, at least by reputation, Joe Howard, of New York, who conducted the *Star* when "Boss Tweed and Tammany ruled Gotham. Very little is known of Joe's early life, except that his parents were wealthy and resided in one of the Eastern States, as he is rather reticent about the past, albeit he takes a delight in informing those who listen to him that he has made as much as \$45,000 a year by his pen. He is certainly a hard worker, a tireless correspondent, and a romancer of no mean order, his Canadian counterpart in some respects being Ed. Farrer, of the *Globe*, *et al.*

Mr. C. R. Johnson, of Toledo, Ohio, gives us in the *Boston Journalist* some particulars of Mr. Howard's early career, which doubtless accounts for Joe's aversion to talking about the past:—

"At a critical period in the war of the Rebellion a most portentous proclamation in due form, and apparently signed by President Lincoln and countersigned by the Secretary of State, appeared in the Washington special dispatches for a leading New York paper, whence it speedily found its way into nearly every newspaper of the North, and many in foreign lands. It answered its immediate purpose in selling large editions of the sheet to which it was originally contributed, and had more remote and more important results in creating a tremendous excitement throughout both North and South. Yet it was a forgery throughout, pure and simple, the more conspicuous and flagrant because the bogus proclamations actually assumed to call for an immense new levy of troops to aid the imperiled cause of the Union. Under the sharp search and imminent threats of the government, its author was speedily discovered, arrested, confined for a time in Fort Lafayette, Boston harbor, and would in all probabilities have been hanged as a traitor had it not been for the intercession of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher and other influential friends of his family and himself.

"The fabricator of this greatest and most notorious of all newspaper 'fakes' has long since been practically forgiven by the American people, without official pardon or amnesty act of congress, and has become one of the most distinguished correspondents before the public. He is Joseph Howard, Jr., otherwise 'Joe Howard,' or, as he is more commonly represented by the signature to his letters and syndicate articles, just 'Howard.'"

"Don" Sheppard, when editing the *Toronto News*, imitated Joe to some extent, by publishing a manifesto of some sort, which was a rehash of one of Washington's proclamations.

The *Richmond Guardian* was the first Canadian weekly to adopt the eight page form.