

THE OTTAWA CITIZEN: ITS RECORD AND PRESENT POSITION.

THE Ottawa Citizen is one of the oldest papers in this country. There are a number in Canada dating back years before The Citizen was established, but a journal with nearly half a century of life behind it, and closely associated with the growth of the Capital of the Dominion, acquires a position and prestige which are not to be despised. The Citizen was started in 1848 by J. C. Bell as a weekly. It was not the first paper there, The Bytown Independent and Gazette having both been begun in 1840. But these, and several successors, have long since disappeared, and The Citizen remains in the field as by far the oldest established in Ottawa. In fact, its present contemporaries are, in point of age, mere babies beside



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it. Not long after 1848 The Citizen passed into the hands of Mr. Robert Bell, who is thus described by a local chronicler. "Mr. Bell was a gentleman of very considerable talent, to whose enterprise and energy the railway connecting the Ottawa and St. Lawrence was principally due, and who represented the county of Russell in the Parliament of Canada for several years." In 1861 Mr. I. B. Taylor assumed charge of The Citizen for Mr. Bell. Mr. Taylor was at this

time a Toronto journalist. He had been connected with the Toronto press for a number of years, notably with The Colonist, having charge of the Parliamentary reports for that journal during the sessions of Parliament, and doing editorial and reportorial work the rest of the year. When the seat of Government was moved to Quebec he had, for several sessions, charge of the Parliamentary reports for The Quebec Chronicle. Originally he had been an English journalist, and was connected with the London and provincial press during his earlier career. So well did Mr. Taylor succeed in his new post at Ottawa that in May, 1865, he bought the paper outright from Mr. Bell. He at once converted it from a semi-weekly and weekly to a daily and weekly, throwing into it all the energy and enterprise of which he was capable, from his extensive experience, skill and practical knowledge of the business in all its branches. Correspondents were established at different points, especially during the period of the Fenian raids. The telegraph was liberally employed, and the reputation of being a first-class city journal was gained for The Citizen. In the later years of Mr. Taylor's control he became Parliamentary printer, and in 1871 Mr. Ridgeway was editor.

In the autumn of 1873 an important change took place. Mr. Taylor parted with a half interest in The Citizen to Messrs. George and Andrew Holland, who now conduct the Senate Hansard. The Hollands had previously been on the staff of the paper, and were noted for their sense and activity as journalists and for push as business men. A short time afterwards the remaining half interest was purchased by Mr. J. M. Currier,

M.P. for Ottawa, well-known as a successful lumberman, and Mr. C. H. Carriere, a business man in the city, who subsequently became manager of La Banque Nationale in Ottawa. The new firm purchased the property now covered by the Scottish Ontario Chambers, on the corner of Sparks and Elgin streets, and removed the publishing office to one of the buildings then standing there. The following session of Parliament an Act was secured incorporating The Citizen Printing and Publishing Co., with the four proprietors, George C. Holland, Andrew Holland, J. M. Currier, C. H. Carriere and B. Batson, now Collector of Customs for Ottawa, as directors of the company.

Mr. C. H. Carriere managed the business department. The Hollands were the journalistic force behind the paper. Mr. George C. Holland was managing editor and Mr. Andrew Holland chief reporter. The former wrote fluently and vigorously, and the latter was noted as an accurate and intelligent all-round newspaper man. In the winter of 1874, shortly after the victory of the Mackenzie Government at the polls, the editorial staff of The Citizen was strengthened by the addition of Mr. C. H. Mackintosh, the present Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Mackintosh was employed as a leader writer, and in that capacity did good service up to the time of the retirement of Mr. George C. Holland from the editorial management in January, 1875, when Mr. Mackintosh became editor. The following year Mr. Andrew Holland retired from the editorial staff, and soon afterwards the Holland brothers sold out their interest in The Citizen, and devoted themselves to Parliamentary and law reporting thereafter.



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The various interests in The Citizen were now acquired by Mr. Mackintosh, who controlled the paper for the next twenty years. From journalism he drifted naturally into public life, to which he was well suited by his gift for public speaking and attractive personality. He was Mayor of Ottawa for several years, and member for the city in the House of Commons. The chief editorial writer for The Citizen was Mr. James Johnson, who was thoroughly posted on all phases of Canadian politics, and who was, and is, an experienced and capable journalist. Mr. Mackintosh remained nominally editor, however, and the attention he devoted to politics must necessarily have deprived The Citizen of that care and constant service which are required to make a newspaper a paying property. During this period the paper gained much in weight and influence, and became a strong political force, both from its intimate relations with the Government of the day and the ability with which it advocated the interests of the Conservative party.

The prestige thus secured has increased since, for when Mr. Mackintosh retired from journalism to become Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest Territories and The Citizen passed under the control of Mr. R. W. Shannon, of Kingston, the