

Island's newspapers all played their part

Down through the years, the people of Prince Edward Island have known no lack of vehicles for expressing their thoughts as there has been a long succession of newspapers published in many parts of the province.

In an earlier era, especially during the really bitter battles on Confederation, the editorials were often devoted to sarcasm, ridicule and personalities, and all too frequently were of an outright vitriolic nature.

Modern newspapermen shudder at the thought of the many libel suits which could have resulted from the writings had the laws on that subject been as strict then as now.

An effort to gather as much data regarding old newspapers as was possible was made earlier in this century by the late Benjamin Bremner whose family had long been associated with the printing of books and who himself acquired much

local fame as a writer of past events.

Results of his research into the history of newspapers here reveal a wide variety of papers. Many of them flourished for a short time and died out; the same applied to their editors: none of either apparently ever hesitated to dip below the facts to find something bad to say of their opposition or the causes they espoused.

In this connection an interesting sidelight on the writ-

ings of the editors and the reaction of the people was recently recalled for me by Neil Matheson, farm and provincial editor for these papers.

He remembers a man back in the Rose Valley area who stood almost alone at the time in being a supporter of the Liberal Party in a district which was strongly Conservative. Each day when The Guardian, then a violently Conservative supporter, arrived at the home of the one subscriber nearby all the neighbors would gather to hear the news of the day read.

It was an era when political writing was at its strongest and when anything which appeared in print was accepted as Gospel. As a result the one Liberal daily received a terrific ribbing from the group of Conservatives. However, his comeback was devastating: "Now

just wait till The Patriot comes tonight then we will learn the truth!"

Following is a list—as nearly accurate as was possible—of the papers of the past.

The Royal American Gazette and Intelligencer of The Island of Saint John, 1797.

Island of Saint John Gazette, 1792.

Royal Herald, 1805.

Prince Edward Island Register, 1823.

Royal Gazette, 1830.

Hazard's Gazette, 1833.

Prince Edward Island Times, 1838.

Colonial Herald, 1837.

Islander, 1842.

Palladium, 1843.

Morning News and Semi-Weekly Advertiser, 1843.

Constitutionalist, 1846.

Examiner, 1847, (by Edward

Whelan, who had had the Palladium).

Express and Commercial Advertiser, 1850.

Monitor, 1857.

Protector and Christian Witness, 1857.

Protector and Evangelical Witness, 1859.

Ross's Weekly, 1859. (Printed till 1866 when fire destroyed the plant and it was discontinued).

Patriot, 1864. (This paper was started by David Laird who had previously published the Protector and the Protestant listed above. Other editors following included Frederick J. Neah and Reuben MacDonald who was succeeded by Neil Matheson, and Calvin Lewis.)

Victor, 1862.

Charlottetown Herald, 1864. (Published till the end of the last century).

North Star, 1869. (above) 1869. Protestant Union (followed Island Argus (succeeded the Presbyterian Union, 1872. CONTINUED ON PAGE 10-B

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