

Canadian Press Celebrates Half Century Of Service

By DOUGLAS AMARON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Fifty years ago, three Winnipeg newspapers, bitter competitors in the pursuit of news, rose above local rivalry to establish Canada's first co-operative news-gathering agency.

From the vibrant but uncertain beginnings of the Western Associated Press in 1907 has come The Canadian Press, a national agency that today provides news from around the world to 97 daily newspapers in 62 Canadian cities.

These papers are observing two anniversaries this year. They are recalling the incorporation 50 years ago of WAP, from which CP was conceived, and the setting up 10 years later, in 1917, of Canadian Press Limited, Canada's first national agency.

NEW 40 YEARS OLD
CP, a co-operative, non-profit-making organization, no longer carries "limited" after its name—that was dropped in 1923—but it points to 1917 as the real anniversary of its birth, the year news started to flow over leased wires from coast to coast.

No special ceremonies are planned to mark the dual anniversaries, but in newspaper and telegraph company offices across the country and in the retirement of their homes, the veterans of those formative years will think back upon the bitter struggles among themselves and against outside interests.

And, when they consider the CP today, a \$2,500,000-a-year operation, that funnels as many as 175,000 words of news a day into some of its largest member papers, they may be forgiven the pride they feel in the party they played, not only in moulding CP but in helping to unite Canada.

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As the distribution in Canada of a half-century ago was, at best, a haphazard operation, bulk of the news, international as well as Canadian, was sold and distributed to the papers by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

The CPR compiled its own Canadian report from agents across the country and held the Canadian distribution rights for the American and international report of The Associated Press, the great United States co-operative.

SERVED FROM MONTREAL
Until 1907, Western Canadian papers—among them the Winnipeg dailies, The Free Press, The Telegram and The Tribune—received their CPR service from Montreal, for a flat-rate charge.

It was an inadequate service, barely skimming the surface of Canadian news and weak in international coverage that was designed, in the first place, for American readers.

In July, 1907, CPR telegraph officials notified the Winnipeg papers that from Aug. 1 the composite Canadian-international report would be abandoned, that AP news would be delivered from St. Paul, Minn., and that the papers would have to bring in the Canadian report from the east at their own expense.

Cost of the AP report from St. Paul was twice that of the composite service from Montreal; adding to this the cost of Canadian service, the Winnipeg papers were faced with basic news charges three or four times what they previously paid.

Business relations among the P. E. I. Hospital Board Have Meeting

The monthly meeting of the board of trustees of the Prince Edward Island Hospital was held on Tuesday evening February 12, with the following present: Dr. J. W. McKenzie, Chairman, Mr. J. A. Likey, Dr. G. G. Houston, Mr. L. E. Tait, Mr. A. B. Bilcher, Mr. E. G. Platts, Mrs. J. A. Van Marion, Mr. R. B. Nicholson, Mr. J. H. Howatt, Mrs. H. H. Simpson, Mrs. W. E. Cotton, Mr. H. B. Boutain and Mr. N. D. McLean, Administrator.

After the reading of the minutes and the adoption of the financial report, the report of the medical society was read by Dr. G. G. Houston. The infection that had previously been reported is now well under control. Some discussion took place on the publishing of the Year Book again after a lapse of several years. Further plans of the new Hospital were also discussed.

The report of the Junior Ladies Aid was given by Mrs. H. H. Simpson and Mrs. G. H. Boutain, reported for the Senior Ladies Aid, stating that the sum of \$550.00 was realized at the Variety concert held recently and that Tag Day would be on Easter Saturday.

Plans were made for the annual meeting of the Hospital to be held on Thursday, February 21st. It is hoped a large attendance will be there. Anybody having contributed \$1.00 or more in the past year is eligible to vote at this meeting.

Coming Events
Wholesale Club rummage sale, Kirk basement on Friday, 22nd, 7 p.m.
Dance Cardigan Legion Hall every Thursday night. Webster Orchestra, F. A. System and Cantata service.
Bingo at Morrell Wednesday 19 games at 8:00 one game at \$3.00 Plus Top and Bottom line \$130.00 8 o'clock.

Please attend the Penny Auction held at the Holy Name Hall on Tuesday February 19th at 8:00 p.m. In aid of Basilica Altar Society.

The Shur-Gain Amateur Calvade was held to be held in Trinity Baptist Hall, February 18, has been postponed until Monday, February 25th.

Winnipeg papers were non-existent up to that time but within 24 hours of receipt of the CPR notice E. H. Macklin, general manager and John W. Dafoe, editor-in-chief, of The Free Press; M. E. Nichols, president and editor of the Telegram, and R. L. Richardson, owner of The Tribune, were in conference.

JOINT ENTERPRISE
Sectional and political differences were forgotten as plans to expand their own Canadian news coverage and to find other sources for their world news. Carbon copies of dispatches received by one paper were distributed to the others.

The CPR quickly abandoned its services from St. Paul and resumed its report from Montreal, but the Winnipeg papers remained outside the fold.

On Sept. 3, 1907, the Manitoba government gave legal status to the Winnipeg publishers' effort to establish their own service by granting them a charter "to collect and distribute news and information and to enter into agreements with other newspapers or individuals for the furtherance of these objects."

This company, with a capital of \$5,000, was the Western Associated Press. Mr. Nichols was the first president, Mr. Macklin treasurer, and Mr. Dafoe secretary.

A few weeks later Mr. Dafoe resigned as secretary and was replaced by J. F. B. Livesay, a former newspaper reporter and part-time editorial writer then out of a job. He was engaged at \$20 a week, because, or so he insisted, he owned a typewriter.

CPR RAISED RATES
Incorporation of WAP was hailed by most Prairie dailies and some immediately subscribed for the new service.

Reaction by the CPR was less amicable and within three weeks Winnipeg publishers were advised of a 50-per-cent surcharge on telegraph rates for dispatches addressed to WAP rather than a single newspaper.

The papers responded by having correspondents and their New York addresses printed on their copy to a single paper, but the CPR still withdrew its press rates, on the grounds that its tariff rules limited the application of these rates to dispatches used only by one paper.

Other telegraph companies agreed to handle WAP press matter at ordinary press rates, but their facilities were limited and at points served exclusively by CPR wires press matter addressed to Winnipeg was accepted only at commercial rates.

On Sept. 30, the CPR enlarged its fighting area by notifying every newspaper in Western Canada of an increase in press rates. Estimates of the increase ranged from 66 to 233 per cent, depending on the zone affected.

The Winnipeg papers saw the increase as an attempt to destroy the WAP and their protest was echoed by the press across the dominion, especially after the CPR withdrew AP service from the Nelson, B.C. News which had been criticizing the railway company's service and the price paid for it.

APPEAL TO LAURIER
In October, western publishers joined in appeal to Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier and within two days the CPR had restored rates to the level before Aug. 1, although still not recognizing the WAP as an agency entitled to a rate applicable to a single newspaper.

The bitter struggle with the CPR was over and subsequent disputes over rates were conducted in the serene atmosphere of the railway commission's chambers, where differences were decided on their merits. The CPR's telegraph company today is one of CP's staunchest friends and the bulk of the agency's news report moves over wires leased from it.

The value of the WAP lessened the growth of the CPR news service and in 1910, in the midst of another rates dispute, in which eastern as well as western papers were involved, the railway turned over to the publishers the rights to AP service.

The CPR's counsel, Edward Beatty, later to become its president, Sir Edward Beatty, said then he was convinced the collection of news was a business foreign to the functions of a railway company.

Withdrawal of the CPR from the news distribution field found the WAP well established to fill the void for western papers not already in the association, but eastern papers had no such organization and faced mounting costs when the flat-rate privileges they enjoyed under the CPR was withdrawn.

MOVES IN EAST
An eastern co-operative was necessary for distribution of the AP news and to provide Canadian services that AP expected in return for its world report.

Many sectional difficulties were encountered in setting up this co-operative but by the autumn of 1910 an Eastern Press Association was functioning in the Maritimes, followed shortly by two loosely-joined central Canada organizations, one for evening papers, with headquarters in Toronto, the other for morning papers, with headquarters in Montreal.

From these separate organizations, Canadian Press Limited emerged as a holding company for AP rights. Divisional co-operatives were left in full control of their own affairs, but agreed to exchange news among one another.

Canadian Press Limited took over distribution of AP service Jan. 1, 1911. President of the new company was J. F. MacKay of Toronto, with Mr. Nichols first vice-president, J. S. Brierley of Montreal second vice-president, and J. E. Atkinson of Toronto secretary-treasurer.

Three formidable physical obstacles, each imposing heavy cost

in transmission, had to be overcome before a national co-operative could become a reality. One was between Toronto and Winnipeg; the others between Calgary and Vancouver and between Montreal and Saint John, N.B.

DEBATE OVER COSTS
There was mutual distrust between East and West, aggravated by the West's contention that eastern papers should share some of the cost burden in transmitting news from Montreal to Winnipeg and by the East's insistence that western papers should pay the full wire charges.

Mr. Macklin, in 1913, succeeded Mr. Nichols as president of WAP and first vice president of Canadian Press Limited. C.O. Knowles of Toronto was manager of the evening section of the central Canadian papers and E. F. Slack of Montreal managed the morning section.

"These were slim times for Canada's newspapers. Business, booming from the turn of the century, turned downward in 1913 and the start of the First World War in 1914 further weakened publication and by the end of 1918, 36 had gone out of business. Surviving papers were strengthened by their competitors' demise but the burden of sustaining a news service was a strain.

A telegraph rate reduction of 20 per cent, retroactive to the start of the war, helped western papers substantially, but there was still insistent pressure from the West for a truly national co-operative, in which the East would bear a greater share of costs.

WARTIME NEGOTIATIONS
Guiding the western destinies was Mr. Macklin; Mr. Slack, who had succeeded Mr. MacKay as president of Canadian Press Limited, was the East's chief protagonist.

Storming negotiations through 1914, 1915 and 1916 brought no solution. The war increased demands for news coverage and the financial train finally led the publishers to approach Sir Robert Borden's government to assume the cost of a news telegraph line from Ottawa to Winnipeg.

Cost of this wire, which would transmit Canadian Press Limited dispatches on a 24-hours-a-day basis, was estimated at \$32,375. The government responded with a \$50,000 grant that not only bridged the gap to Winnipeg but financed leased wires from Calgary to Vancouver and from Montreal to Saint John.

Canadian Press Limited became truly national Sept. 1, 1917, and the following day its wires from Atlantic to Pacific were opened.

Western Associated Press and the various eastern organizations ceased to function. Mr. Knowles was appointed general manager, with headquarters in Toronto, and Mr. Livesay, who succeeded him three years later, became assistant general manager, with headquarters in Winnipeg.

Mr. Slack remained president. **UNPOPULAR SUBSIDY**
The federal subsidy, never widely welcomed, was always a sore spot since it carried the threat, though never the action, of government interference in the handling of news. There was no regret when Prime Minister Mackenzie King announced in 1923 that the subsidy would not be renewed the following year.

Canadian Press Limited was re-incorporated in March, 1923, by special act of parliament as a non-profit-making co-operative. Its corporate name was changed to The Canadian Press. Shareholders were paid off; shares were cancelled and a certificate of membership was issued to each member.

The period 1917-1923 had been one of clashes of personality of differences, dissensions and family quarrels but with the end of the subsidy and a decision of the membership never again to accept one there was harmony of purpose and action.

The years have removed all but a handful of CP's founding fathers from the scene. Of the original WAP founders, only Mr. Nichols remains.

Now in retirement in Vancouver, Mr. Nichols became historian of CP and in 1948 his book, The Story of The Canadian Press, was published. The information for this glimpse into the past came from his research.

DISTINGUISHED RECORD
Mr. Livesay retired in 1939 after 19 distinguished years as CP's general manager. He died in 1944. His predecessor, Mr. Knowles, died in Toronto last December.

One charter member of CP remained an active CP member until his death Feb. 10. He was Dave Smith, 84, part-owner, managing director and secretary of the Fort William Times-Journal.

CP's story since 1923 has been one of continued progress and operation, bringing respect to itself and benefits to its members.

Not only have its services within Canada expanded but it has vastly enlarged its coverage of world events by adding associations with Reuters, the British co-operative, to its earlier ties with AP.

BROAD COVERAGE
CP operates bureaus in London and New York; has staff correspondents at Washington and the United Nations; CP staff members in the field as correspondents in the Second World War, in Korea, and now, in the police action in the Middle East.

In other fields too, CP has made great strides. Its subsidiary Broadcast News, provides 24-hours-a-day service to more than 165 Canadian radio and television stations. There is a mail picture service and an ever-widening wirephoto service. A service in French operates for Canada's French-language newspapers.

Technical advances have kept



JOINS R.C.A.F.

Marlin MacRae, 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William MacRae of Point Prim, P.E.I., recently joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and left Charlottetown by train Monday morning for the Air Force training base at St. John's, Quebec. Marlin has joined the electronics division of the force and will presently commence an eight to ten week basic training course at the St. John's base.

Plan Multiple Sclerosis Talk
A Gordon Cleland, executive secretary of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada will visit Charlottetown this week and address a public meeting at Prince of Wales College Friday. The Prince Edward Island chapter of the society is sponsoring his visit.

It is estimated that about a quarter of a million people in Canada and the United States are afflicted with multiple sclerosis, and additional tens of thousands with related neurological diseases. The drama of M S lies in the fact that it first hits young adults in their prime of life, usually between the ages of 20 and 40; it is generally progressive; and its symptoms are widespread and disabling.

CAUSE UNKNOWN
Although the cause and cure for M S are presently unknown, we do know that the disease process occurs with the patchy destruction of myelin, the protective covering of the nerves. In the later stages of the disease, the nerve fibers themselves are destroyed. This locks the passage of nerve impulses from reaching those destinations in the muscles which serve to activate the various parts of the body. As a result, bodily functions are seriously impaired.

Most common difficulties are: double vision; other forms of impaired vision; staggering gait; inability to walk properly, or at all; tremors, numbness, scanning speech; bladder and bowel difficulties. The degree of disability depends on the degree of nerve destruction. An M S patient may be ambulatory, be in a wheel chair, or be confined to his bed.

M S is usually progressive and always unpredictable. It is also fortunately, often characterized by remissions, in which the patient's condition improves, but these come and go mysteriously.

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada has supported many research projects. Any of these may lead to the solution of multiple sclerosis.

pace with news growth and teleprinter service provides the bulk of CP's members with their news in tape, quickly converted mechanically into type.

Since 1948 CP has operated from its own headquarters, a modern two-storey building in downtown Toronto. It is a far cry from its first headquarters, four rooms on the top floor of the three-storey Peterkin building at the corner of Toronto's Bay and Temperance Streets.

STAFF VETERANS
Today's staff in editorial, traffic and business departments numbers more than 300, of whom three—Frank J. Turner, George Finlay and Hilary Gordon—have come the whole way since CP's start in 1917.

Turner joined WAP in 1912 as a Morse operator in Winnipeg on the Montreal-Ottawa-Fort William leased wire. He later moved to the editorial side, became Winnipeg bureau chief and then, from 1941 to 1952, Vancouver bureau chief. He retired in 1952 but has broken that retirement to do part-time work for CP.

Finlay is another graduate of WAP. An office boy at the Free Press, he was "enticed" to a similar job at WAP in 1913 by the promise of a \$1 salary raise to \$6.50 a week. Today he is news editor at the Vancouver bureau.

Gordon, editor of CP's news-feature service, joined CP in its anniversary year, 1917, as assistant night editor at head office in Toronto. A former Toronto World reporter, he worked under general manager Knowles in the Peterkin building as part of a 15-man staff that included six operators, book-keeper, stenographer and two office boys.

A commercial operator at the time was Ira Kennedy who, though not on The Canadian Press staff, has handled his morning "bug" in CP offices continuously since then. Kennedy's long term of service ends in March when he retires from Canadian National Telegraphs.

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Imperturbable Dignity Asset To U. N. President

By LLOYD McDONALD
Canadian Press Staff Writer

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (CP) Prince Wan of Thailand is a picture of imperturbable dignity as he sits high on the rostrum presiding over the United Nations General Assembly. In private he confesses that his sense of humor has been a big help in his diplomatic career.

The prince, assembly president for his 11th session of the world forum, does not give an impression of humor during his public appearances in the assembly hall. He appears remote from the often-heated speeches made by delegates from many lands. His calm "I call on the honorable delegate of..." betrays no indication of interest in the subject at hand.

But all this conceals the fact that he is an expert on keeping any discussion on the rails. His long-time knowledge of diplomatic and parliamentary procedure gives him a sixth sense on when to intervene dextrously appearing to do any more than call on the next speaker.

EXPERT GUIDANCE
Seated high above the delegation benches, he can take note of a flurry of activity during a speech and allow time for consultations by calling next on a delegate who can be depended upon to continue for some time.

A number of South Americans have proved helpful in that respect. They usually take the best part of an hour to outline their views of the legislative position of any topic of debate. During such a speech, the delegations most concerned have time to gather outside the chamber to decide on their non-diplomatic language, the president's procedure in such cases is known as "juggling the list." Before, and sometimes during, each debate, he is handed the names of countries desiring to speak. His order in calling on them is left to his discretion, although any key delegate can ask to have his speech delayed.

Outside the chamber, the prince takes gleeful note of this power of the assembly president. When he withdraws from a session he is an affable, round-faced diplomat from Southeast Asia whose popularity with press correspondents rates high.

KEY GIFT
He is not averse to pointing out that his sense of humor has often smoothed out situations even before he was named president of the 11th assembly. For example, he was recently telling a group of correspondents how that attribute had helped get his country admitted to the UN in the first place.

In 1946, he recounted, he had come to Lake Success, N.Y., where the original UN meetings

were held, to plead Thailand's case for admission. However, due to an involved political situation at home in Bangkok he had not been provided in advance with official credentials as his country's ambassador to the UN.

Russia, as she has been doing ever since to keep the Communist voting bloc up to strength, had decided to oppose a number of new applicants for membership—including Thailand. Prince Wan thought that if he could get Russian support his membership would be assured.

"I thought the best approach would be to talk to Mr. Gromyko (Andrei Gromyko, Soviet deputy foreign minister and UN delegate at that time) personally," Prince Wan said. "So one day I saw him in the delegate's lounge and went right up, and laughed, and asked: 'Mr. Gromyko, why don't you like us?' That made Mr. Gromyko laugh too."

DOUBTFUL CHORUS
At this point a loud chorus of disbelief came from the correspondents. Gromyko, in the recollections of even the oldest hands among the UN reporters, had never been known to smile in those days.

"Oh, yes, he laughed," persisted the prince. "Then he asked how I expected to get admitted without credentials. So I told him I could get a cablegram from Bangkok within 24 hours if that would influence his decision."

"He told me to get the cablegram—which I did right away. I assure you—and he would not vote against us. And that is how Thailand got into the UN."

The correspondents felt there probably was a lot more to the story than that, but the prince insisted that a sense of humor can accomplish a lot.

He left them with this parting shot about the value of the UN: "Resolutions are better than revolutions."

L. O. L. Had Its Annual Session

Kilgus County L.O.L. met in annual session in MacEwen Lodge room Pinetie on Tuesday, February 5 at 8 o'clock p.m. The meeting was presided over by the County Master Robert Cook. There was a very good attendance of members. The committees appointed brought in their reports. The County Master gave a fine address.

The County Charter was draped as the members stood and observed a two minute silence in memory of Brother Norman C. Stewart who had passed away during the past year, and who for forty three years was County Treasurer.

A fitting tribute to Brother Stewart's long service was placed on the Lodge Records. A fitting tribute was also paid to two former County Masters who had passed away during the year. Bro. R.C. MacLeod, and Bro. Oswald Graham.

These three brethren served with faithfulness, the Orange Order, the Church and the Community and their passing is deeply regretted, and sympathy extended to their families. L. was agreed to hold a parade during the summer at Fortune Bridge and the next annual meeting at Murray River, those days.

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The singing of God Save The Queen brought the meeting to a close.

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ATTENTION CARPENTERS

Local 1338 will hold their monthly meeting at 202 Queen Street, February 20th at 7:30 p.m. All members are urged to attend.

W. County Master, Fred Pantou; W. Co. Dep. Master, D.N. Horton; W. Co. Chap. R.C. MacPhee; C. Rec. Sec'y, Joseph Cook; Co. Fin. Sec'y, Donald MacLeod; Co. Treasurer, Carleton Hume; Co. Marsh. John A. MacDonald, Co. Lect., Alfred Cook; Co. Dep. Lect., Ernest MacLeod; Co. Auditors, P.W. MacLean, E.T. Gillis.

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