

The Story of the Courtenay Gazette

IN October of 1897 the Courtenay Gazette was launched upon the tempestuous sea of journalism by C. A. Sanford. At that time the town was in its infancy. The places of business were very few and the launching of a newspaper was a mere venture. But with the enterprise that is characteristic of the people of Courtenay and of North Dakota in general the enterprise was launched. Mr. Sanford, not being a practical newspaper man himself had to have some assistance in publishing the paper and the Presbyterian minister, Rev. J. A. Corkey, was chosen as the man to have charge of the work. They erected a building on Main street on the site where the Courtenay Confectionery is now located. The building was put up as cheaply as possible and was about 12x16 feet in size and was covered with steel siding. Part of the space was rented to Dr. Macdonald for an office and the newspaper plant was confined to a space about 5x12 feet for some time. Only the press was kept in the office and the type was kept at the parsonage. The outfit was not very extensive. The press was of the Old Army style and printed one page of a six column paper at a time. The type was limited in variety and consisted principally of a few cases of newspaper type and enough display letters to set up the small amount of advertising that the paper naturally had in the beginning. The paper was an unpretentious affair of four pages, two of which were furnished by the North Dakota Newspaper Union at Fargo and the other two were home print. The office was rather cold and that was the principal reason for setting the type at the parsonage, but that too was rather cold that winter and many times the parson got "cold feet" while working on the paper and has been seen on several occasions in his bedroom with the type cases bolstered up on his trunk and a blanket wrapped around his feet, setting type. The paper was continued in this way until the following April when Mr. Corkey



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went away and Mr. Sanford took charge of the work on the paper himself and was assisted by Miss Hattie Shaner, now Mrs. Oliver E. Norell. The business had a steady growth from the beginning and it kept the office force busy in taking care of the work. In the fall of 1898 Mr. Sanford was elected representative to the state legislature from this district and during his absence the paper was in charge of Mr. Alph Ellsworth of Jamestown, a practical newspaper man of considerable experience. Under his management the business was considerably increased, and the entire building was used for the accomodation of the business. After Mr. Sanford returned from the legislature he employed Mr. C. E. Greenwood of Valley City and he was in charge of the mechanical department of the paper when the plant passed into the hands of the present owner on June 30th, 1900. The business had not become so extensive as to require the services of more than one practical man and Mr. Greenwood's services were dispensed with and the new proprietor became the editor, typo, devil, pressman, advertising solicitor, circulation manager, reporter, collector and all around hustler. The Army press still was doing duty in the office and the job work was done on a 6x9 hand lever jobber. The inking apparatus for the news press consisted of a sheet of galvanized iron on the side of the wall and a hand roller. The ink was distributed on the sheet of iron on the wall and then the roller was run over the type on the press and then the paper was let down onto the type and the roller on the press run over it and in this way the paper was printed. But the business increased and the new proprietor soon traded the old Army press and the hand lever jobber to the type foundry for new material and bought a large job press on which the paper was printed for some time. This greatly added to the facilities of the office for turning out work in much less time and of a higher grade. The town was