

# The Press in Ireland Has Come a Long Way

**Dublin** — In a world where man's unwillingness to grant his fellow man his rights seems to be an indestructible phenomenon, the fact that Irish papers no longer have to seek editors who are willing to go to prison is a small note of hope.

In 1815, when Ireland's Catholic party wanted an editor for a new journal, they advertised for "a person perfectly competent to be the ostensible proprietor of a patriotic religious newspaper. He must be in circumstances to enable him to say he has no preferences for the streets of Dublin to the cells of Newgate."

Willfulness to spend time in the cells of Newgate was a necessary qualification when British authorities in Ireland were intent on crushing press opposition to its policies by

withholding dispatches from recalcitrant newspapers and by prosecutions for "seditious libel."

In the 18th Century, the Irish periodical became a permanent feature of daily life in Dublin. Readership was restricted to the small pro-English "Ascendancy," and the papers reflected the anti-Catholic prejudices of this group.

In the late 18th century, as members of the Ascendancy grew increasingly annoyed at the subordination of the Irish parliament to that in London, the Irish papers became controversial, attacking the English government.

After the rebellion of 1798, the Irish parliament passed extremely severe laws giving the government complete control over the press.

After the union of Britain and Ireland under one parliament in 1801, the British authorities in Ireland used

subtle methods to control the press. But by 1810, most of the Irish papers had turned against the British authorities mainly on the issue of the treatment of Catholics. The papers in general favored Catholic Emancipation which would admit Catholics to a public office.

In 1824, a new paper, the Morning Register, began publication. It supported the cause of Catholic Emancipation, and substituted reports of events in Ireland for unedited dispatches from abroad. The Register reported Dublin's first corps of reporters.

In 1842, the first edition of The Nation was published, and proclaimed nationality as its great object, "not a nationality which would preclude civil war, but which would establish internal independence — a nationality which would be recognized by the world and sanctioned by wisdom, virtue and prudence."

The Nation was the first means of popular communication which expressed uninhibited nationalist aspirations aimed at the whole population. It helped create the prerequisite for revolutionary activity — a sympathetic climate of opinion.

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James Connolly edited the first Irish socialist paper, The Workers' Republic. Sean MacDermott edited Irish Freedom. Thomas MacDonagh and Joseph Plunkett edited the Irish Review. Countess Markievicz wrote verse, articles and plays. Sean T. O'Kelly was associated with Arthur Griffith in editing several journals.

Padraig Pearse edited An Claidheamh Solus (The Sword of Light).

The two main daily papers were then opposed to Sinn Fein. The Irish Times was Unionist in its sympathies, while the Irish Independent favored the Irish Home Rule Party. After the Treaty between Ireland and Britain came into force, both daily papers tended to favor the Government. In 1931, the Irish Press was founded. These three papers, along with the Cork Examiner, today make up the 26 counties quota of morning daily

Outside Dublin there are 47 newspapers with one, two, or three editions a week). The oldest newspaper in the 26 counties is the Limerick Chronicle, which was founded in 1766 and appears three times a week.

The relatively large number of journals in the country is a witness to the reality of the freedom of opinion and the press guaranteed in the Irish Constitution.

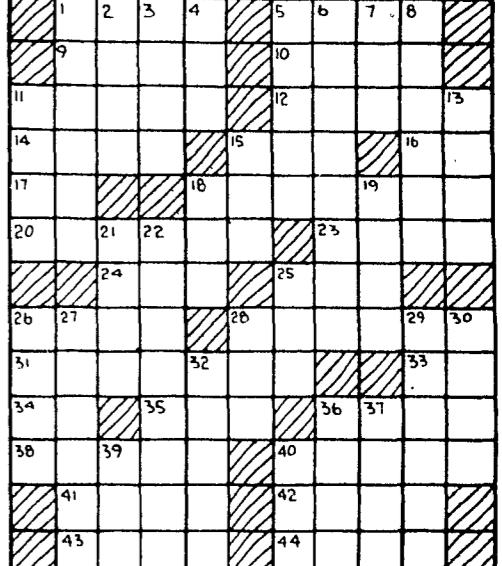
Things have come a long way since a fondness for jail cells was a requirement in those seeking editorial employment.

**Jesuit School To House Free University**

Courier-Journal — Friday, Oct. 11, 1968

15

ACROSS	DOWN
1. Blackbird	21. Formerly
5. Scrutinize	22. Fragment
9. Conceal	3. Poems
10. Law of	4. Man's
Moses	nickname
11. Waits	5. Sober
12. Girl's	6. Contributed
name	7. Biblical
14. Employs	Irish
Disease	lion
of sheep	8. Country
16. At home	9. Insects
17. Earth as a	10. goddess
goddess	11. Girl's
18. American	name
ornithologist	12. Perishes
20. Untidy	13. Examinations
23. Walking	14. Likely
stick	15. Forbids
24. Negative	16. Den
Bog	
26. Diplomacy	
28. Went by	
31. Ancient	
East	
Iranian	
language	
33. Roman	
numerical	
34. Music note	
35. Exclamation	
36. Edging on	
a gown	
38. Mountains	
So. Am.	
40. Haste	
41. Short for	
Miss	
Ederle	
42. Ireland	
43. Concludes	
44. Produced	



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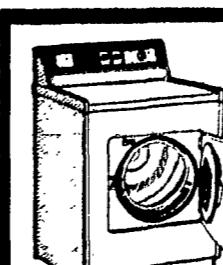
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