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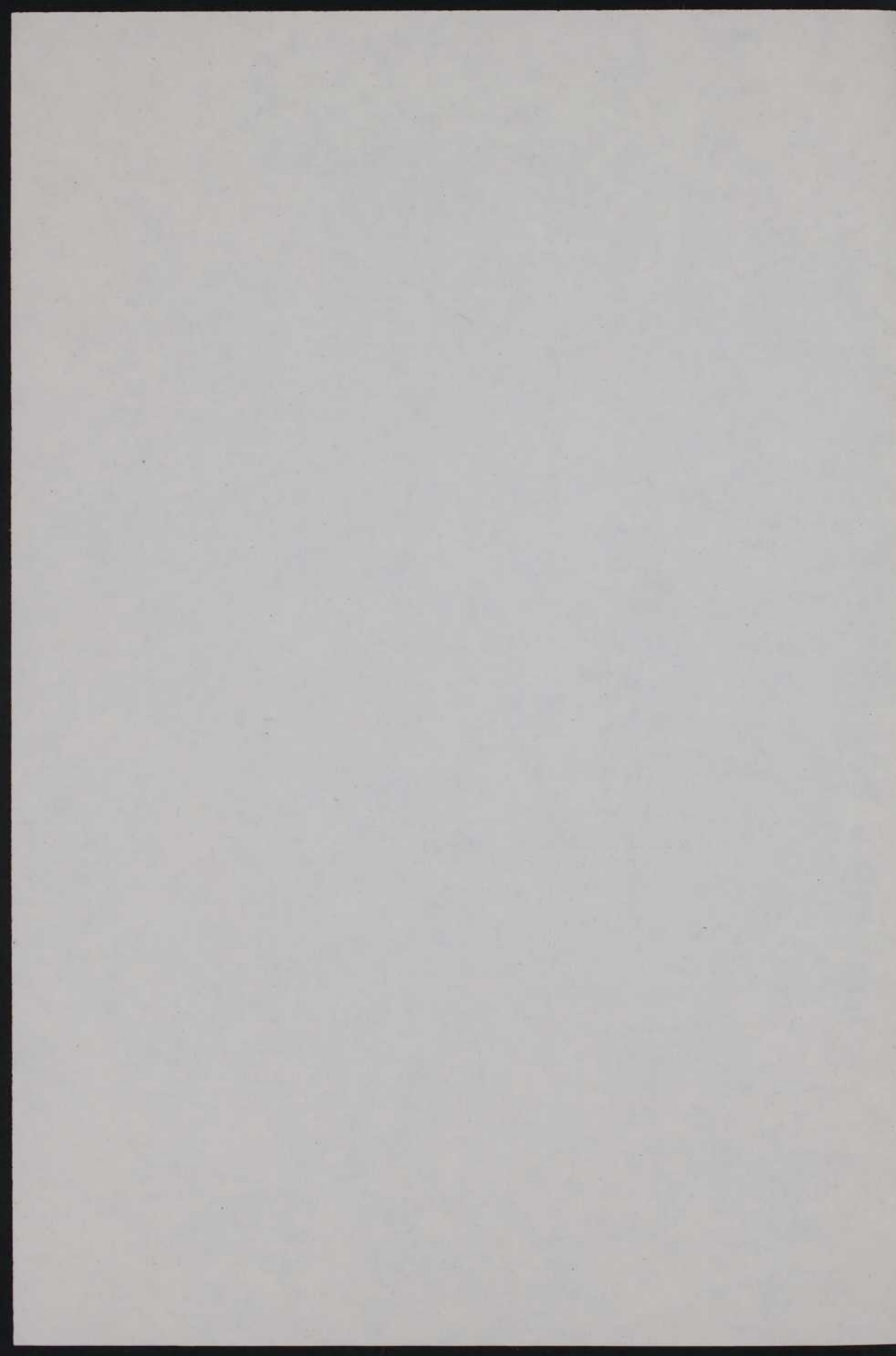
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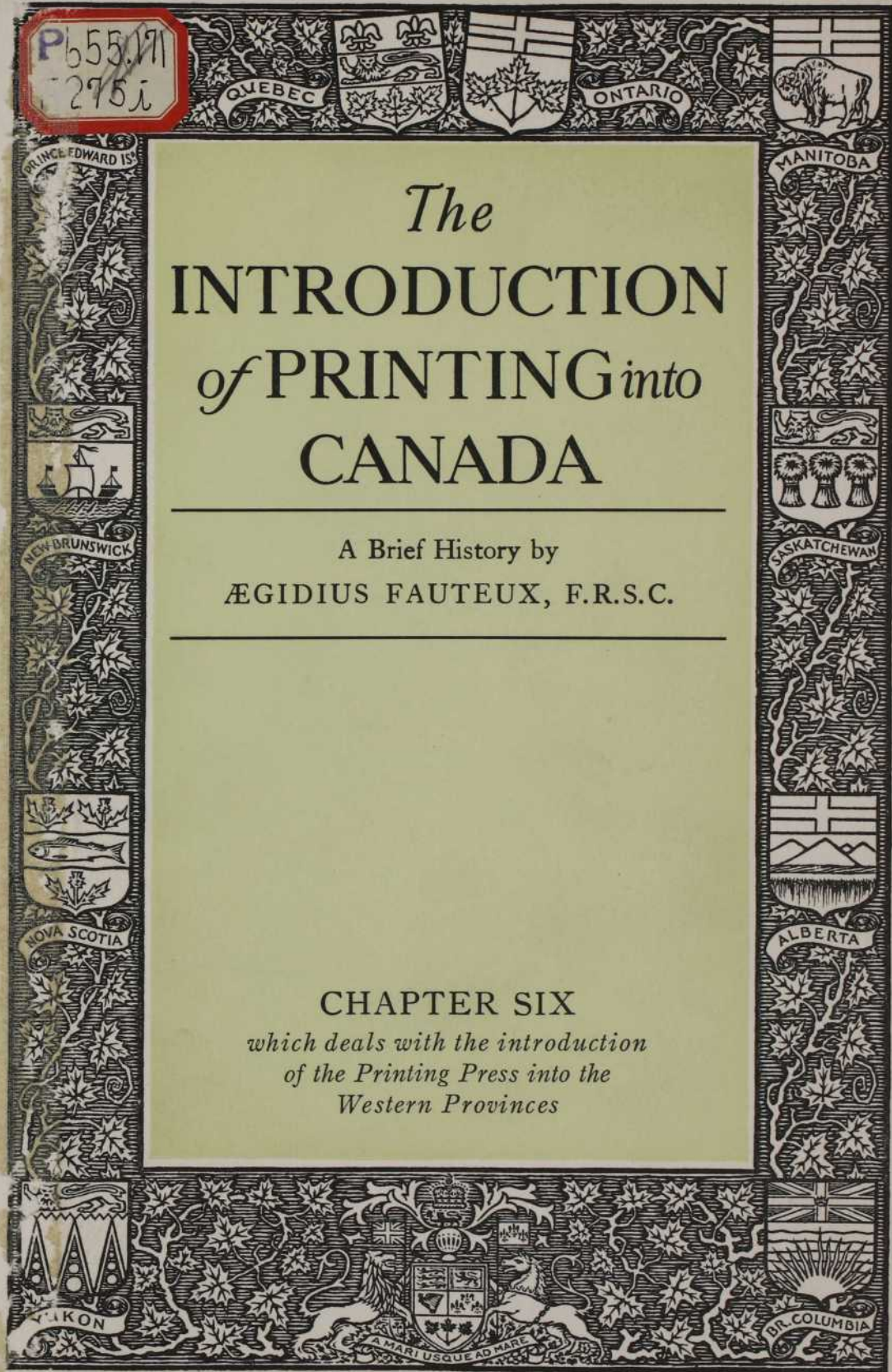
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The
INTRODUCTION
of PRINTING into
CANADA

A Brief History by
ÆGIDIUS FAUTEUX, F.R.S.C.

CHAPTER SIX

*which deals with the introduction
of the Printing Press into the
Western Provinces*



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The invention of printing is the greatest event of history
Under the form of printing, thought is more imperishable than ever; it is
volatile, intangible, indestructible; it mingles with the very air. In the
reign of architecture it became a mountain, and took forceful possession of
an era, of a country. Now it is transformed into a flock of birds, scattering
to the four winds and filling the whole air and space.

(*Victor Hugo, Notre-Dame de Paris,*
Book V, Ch. II.)

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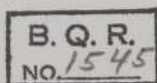
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CHAPTER SIX

*Which deals with the introduction of the
Press into the Western Provinces*



AT THE period at which we left the Printing art firmly established in the Maritime Provinces, in Lower and in Upper Canada, leaving it with the knowledge that its future in each of these districts was definitely assured, that is to say, about 1830 or 1840, there still remained more than three-quarters of our vast country, between the Great Lakes and the Pacific Ocean, which was inhabited only by buffaloes and by Indian hordes, and where civilization had penetrated only with an occasional missionary or with a handful of hardy trappers in search of furs. No one had yet foreseen the developments which were to take place one day in those territories which remained for so long unexplored; developments all the more stupendous because their beginnings are of such recent date. We see to-day flourishing, progressive cities of 100,000, of 200,000 and even of 400,000 inhabitants, where sixty years ago, or fifty or

[3]

even forty years ago, the vast plain was practically a wilderness with at most a few wretched huts, and a whole generation still lives which can testify to this of its own knowledge. Thus there would seem to be good reasons for believing that printing, which ordinarily follows in the wake of civilization, and might almost be said never to precede it, had started its conquest of Western Canada at a very recent date, were it not that History has shown us that the contrary is the case, and that it is of relatively early origin. Already in 1841, almost thirty years before the establishment of the first regular Government of the Territories, a printing press, albeit a very modest one, was actually in operation on the remote prairies; and if we consider the circumstances as a whole, and especially the situation at the time of its initiation, it will be admitted that there are few regions where the printing art enjoyed a more precocious infancy.

It is to Religion that printing owes its first introduction into the Canadian West, as was also the case in Mexico in 1540, and in New England in 1639. Neither the partners of the Hudson's Bay Company nor the simple "*coureurs des bois*" felt any yearning to exchange opinions with the Crees or the Blackfeet; on the contrary, all they desired was to maintain these savages in their primitive state in order that they might the more easily be despoiled of their rich pelts. Only the missionaries came out with the sole idea of enlighten-

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ing these poor peoples and guiding them out of the darkness of utter ignorance in which they were shrouded. From the start their thoughts turned to printing as one of the most practical media for the propagation of the Gospel, through the indefinite multiplication of the printed word. The pioneer in this work appears to have been a Catholic missionary, the Abbé Georges-Antoine Belcourt; he endeavoured to translate the dream into fact, but his resources were not so great as his spirit was enterprising, and he had the sorrow of seeing his plans rendered abortive. That this was the case is indicated in a letter written by Monseigneur Provencher, the first bishop of Red River, on September 4th, 1834, in which we read: "M. Belcourt, who has opened a school for the instruction of the little savages, has undertaken himself to write books for them. Last year he asked for a little printing-press, and was informed that this would cost 50 louis and would weigh 1,000 pounds. He has asked for one to cost about ten louis, which equally will be refused; it would still constitute too heavy a burden."

Although it is to a Catholic missionary that the honour must be attributed of having been the first to try and introduce printing into Western Canada, the glory of having actually effected this must be given to a Methodist pastor. It was accomplished seven or eight years after Monsieur Belcourt's efforts had failed. We refer to James Evans, who has made for

himself a place in the annals of missionary work that will be forever memorable through his invention of the spelling-book for the Crees; and the story of whose life of admirable devotion has been written successively by the Rev. John McLean and by Dr. Lorne Pierce.

Throughout the entire history of the printing art, we know of nothing that surpasses the ingenuity and the perseverance of James Evans, this courageous pioneer. When, after spending a year or two at Norway House, he completed the famous spelling-book, which was afterwards utilized by the apostles of all denominations in their work of evangelizing the Crees, it only remained for him to put it into service by procuring a printing-press and the proper type. The Hudson's Bay Company, however, for the reasons already indicated, was not equally enthusiastic for the introduction of printing, and having practically a monopoly of transportation into the West, was able to block Evans' efforts, as those of M. Belcourt had been blocked in 1834, on the score of excessive weight of the requisite material. The Methodist missionary, however, refused to let himself be stopped by any obstacle. He first set to work to cut up strips of birch bark into small leaves, and using soot from the chimneys as ink, he printed on these leaves his first hymns and his first verses of the Bible. Still unsatisfied, he wished to do something better. After laboriously cutting out moulds in blocks of wood with a rude knife, he pulled out the sheets

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of lead which formed the lining of old tea boxes that he managed to collect, and having melted them down, he succeeded in moulding the lead into characters. He constructed a rude hand press and, still using ink made of soot, he succeeded in printing upon birch-bark his first book. Thus it was that printing was begun in the North-West in the year of grace 1841.

A little later, James Evans obtained permission to send to England for a little press which facilitated his work to some extent, and he carried on his labours for a number of years, assisted by some Indians of whom he had made more or less expert typographers.

The Library of Victoria College, at Toronto, is the proud possessor to-day of John Evans' press and also of the first type that he manufactured with the lead from the tea-boxes and some musket balls, together with a specimen of the first little book that he produced, bearing the imprint: "Norway House, 1841."

This, however, could still be called only private printing. When James Evans finally obtained from the Directors of the Hudson's Bay Company the press and type for which he asked so earnestly, it was only upon the express condition that both press and type should be used exclusively for the needs of the mission. It was not until nearly twenty years later that printing was addressed to the community in general, and in consequence developed a public character within the limits of the Territories.

This goal was very nearly reached in 1850,

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when the Council of the District of Assiniboia contemplated providing itself with a press and type for use in its own work. Adam Thom, previously the impetuous editor of the *Herald* of Montreal, and now a member of the Assiniboia Council, was appointed to convey its request to the Hudson's Bay Company, of which he and his colleagues were in truth little more than vassals. His letter, which M. E. H. Oliver has reproduced in his *Pioneer Legislation of the North-West*, breathes the most complete confidence in the success of the proposal. It enumerates exactly the various items, paper, ink, and type, which the applicants required; and amongst other details specifies a set of cedillas and accents as essential, all documents having to be printed in French as well as in English. Adam Thom and his friends erred, however, in relying upon the Hudson's Bay Company, which had still the same reasons for opposing the introduction of printing and was not anxious to provide means for the expression of opinions in its domain. After waiting for four months they received a reply on March 23rd, 1851, from W. G. Smith, the Assistant Secretary of the Company, which, although it seemed but to procrastinate, actually disposed of the question finally.

Whilst the colony of Assiniboia was thus dallying, she found herself outstripped by a more remote colony which had already been established for some time on the western coast of Canada, and which, towards the middle of

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the last century, had commenced to forge ahead rapidly. Thus it was actually on the island of Vancouver that the first public printing press in that immense country, which stretches from the Great Lakes right to the Pacific Ocean, was inaugurated, in the year 1858. It is true that only eighteen months passed before Assiniboia in its turn entered the lists with the establishment of *The Nor'-Wester*, but we believe it may obviate almost certain confusion if we at once give to British Columbia the advantage of its priority and relate the numerous vicissitudes of its first printing shop before taking up the story of other efforts which may have been contemporary, but which were enacted on another stage.

It should first be noted that printing in British Columbia was entirely French in origin. The first press was brought to that country from France by a French-Canadian bishop, in order to produce there a newspaper in the French language under the direction of a Parisian editor. It is also worthy of note that in this same Province, where there are published to-day newspapers in ten different languages—even in Chinook—there has not been a newspaper published in the French tongue for a number of years.

It is generally agreed that it was in 1856 that Monseigneur Modeste Demers, the Catholic Bishop of Vancouver Island, received from the

Society for the Propagation of the Faith a gift that had long been desired, in the form of a small printing press and a certain amount of type. Although it has not been possible to trace any work produced on this press prior to 1858, it is highly improbable that the missionary bishop would have left it completely idle for two years after having so eagerly awaited the arrival of this equipment. Douglas C. McMurtrie, in a work which he has recently published under the heading "*The First Printing in British Columbia*," recognizes that Mgr Demers' press was the first to reach the colony, and himself fixes the date of its arrival as the year 1856, but he is none the less of the opinion that printing actually began in British Columbia only with the first number of the *Victoria Gazette*, published on June 25, 1858. This, however, could not have been the case if credence may be given to the especially authoritative evidence of the Hon. David William Higgins, who embarked on his long career as a journalist at Victoria in 1858, that is to say, at the time of the happenings with which we are now dealing. In his *Reminiscences of the Victoria Press*, published by the *Colonist* a little more than forty years ago, Higgins categorically places at the head of British Columbian printing the little French sheet produced under the patronage of the Catholic Bishop of Vancouver. The only way to settle this dispute would be to compare the first proofs of the two publications in question, with their respective

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dates; but unfortunately up to the present time we have been unable to learn if both have been equally preserved.

One thing we know, however. Mgr Demers' news-sheet was entitled "*Le Courrier de la Nouvelle Calédonie*, journal politique et littéraire, organe des populations françaises dans les possessions anglaises". The Editor-printer was Paul de Garro, a French count, who was exiled from France immediately after the coup d'état of December 2nd, 1851, and finally landed on Vancouver Island after having travelled through California. The *Courrier de la Nouvelle Calédonie* enjoyed but a brief existence, however, either because the undertaking, modest as it was, was yet beyond the resources of its originator, or because the noble editor was unable to retain the confidence of the bishop. Whatever the reason, publication ceased after only a few numbers had appeared. The story runs that Count de Garro, who, after his exit from the newspaper field, had worked for some time as a waiter in a Victoria restaurant, met with a tragic fate in 1861, when he was the victim of a boiler explosion on board an old steamer which was carrying him, together with other gold-seekers, towards the mines of Caribou.

Another paper appeared almost simultaneously with M. de Garro's *Courrier*, if indeed it did not actually precede it, and this time it was a paper more worthy of the name and much more ambitious in its scope, the *Victoria*

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Gazette. From the start this was practically a daily newspaper, as it was issued five times a week. The founders were two enterprising journalists who had already made their first attempt in San Francisco, H. C. Williston and Columbus Bartlett. Two other immigrants from California were the first printers, Abel Whilton and James W. Towne.

The *Victoria Gazette* was not long left without a competitor. Reports of the discovery of gold mines in British Columbia had by this time begun to attract great crowds of immigrants, and already in 1858 the population, more or less floating, of the city of Victoria might be estimated at about 15,000. It was a restless, seething population, for which a newspaper provided a very welcome means of expression. Thus it was that the *Victoria Gazette* had scarcely been launched when the *Vancouver Island's Gazette* was produced, in July, 1858, and was in its turn closely followed, in December, by the *British Colonist*, the fourth newspaper produced by the printing art in British Columbia within the first six months of its existence there.

The only one of these first newspapers that has survived is the *British Colonist*. This is the paper that is still published in Victoria under the briefer title of *Colonist*. It was founded by a Nova Scotian who played a role of considerable importance not only in the journalistic field but also in the political life of British Columbia, Amor de Cosmos, who, during a

sojourn in San Francisco, changed his real name of William Smith by Act of Parliament into this pseudonym, which he naïvely believed signified "Lover of the Universe". By the middle of 1859 the *British Colonist* had already witnessed the failure of its two first rivals, the *Vancouver Island's Gazette*, which lasted but a few months, and the *Victoria Gazette*, which lived for exactly one year. Certain other journals sprang up during the same year, 1859, but their existence was at best precarious. Amongst them we may mention the *Weekly Victoria Gazette*, which, as the result of legal proceedings brought against the proprietors by the original owners of the *Victoria Gazette*, on the ground of usurpation of title, enjoyed the rather unusual distinction of appearing in at least three numbers without any title.

Even the *Colonist* had some difficult storms to weather. If credence may be given to Duncan Georges Forbes Macdonald,⁽¹⁾ it was very nearly strangled in its cradle beneath the weight of a proclamation by which the Governor, Sir James Douglas, dissatisfied with *Amor de Cosmos* by reason of his independence, armed himself against the latter with certain ancient statutes which had long fallen into disuse and drew up claims which were equivalent to complete extinction. Macdonald states that there was a regular rising of all the colonists, who, by way of protest, subscribed on the spot

(1) *British Columbia*, London, 1862, p. 278.

the guarantee of £800 which had been stipulated by the governor, and thus ensured continuance of the threatened newspaper.

The *Colonist*, indeed, continued to prosper. It has been claimed that the ancient French printing press of Mgr Demers was used at first in its production; but in 1862 this was replaced by a cylinder press, the first that ever functioned on the coast of British Columbia.

In the year 1866 the *Colonist* was sold by its proprietors to the *Victoria Daily Chronicle*, which D. W. Higgins had founded four years previously, but it continued to appear under its own name, which it actually imposed upon the journal that had just absorbed it, and which persists right up to the present day.

Printing in British Columbia developed with great rapidity from the time of its inception, and we have already almost reached the time when it was solidly established, so that we need mention only two more newspapers, the *British Columbian* and the famous *Caribou Sentinel*.

The *British Columbian* was established in 1861 at New Westminster by John Robson, the future prime minister, and was the pioneer of printing upon the mainland; its predecessor, Leonard McClure's *New Westminster Times*, which did not long survive, having commenced publication on the island of Vancouver, although it was intended for circulation amongst the population of the interior, as the name indicates.

The *Caribou Sentinel* was noteworthy for

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two reasons, one the surroundings in which it was produced, the mountains of the new mining district of Caribou, overflowing at that time with a crowd of gold-seekers and soon to return to its former deserted state; the other, the extraordinarily high subscription demanded, \$52.00 a year or a dollar for a single number. This paper was founded in 1865 by George Wallace, who turned it over in the following year to C. W. Allan, in order to take up the profession of a "showman," and who, having first amassed and then lost a considerable fortune in travelling over the world with a Japanese troupe, finally died in Montreal in 1888, where he was serving as correspondent of the *Daily Mail* of Toronto. One of C. W. Allan's first actions on resuming publication of the *Sentinel*, after a brief suspension, was to cut in half the somewhat inflated price, and by this and other means he was enabled to continue production of the paper up to 1872.

Once more Mgr Demers' good old press was brought into service to print the *Caribou Sentinel*. Having been replaced in 1862 in the work of the *British Colonist* by a more modern cylinder press, it still retained sufficient vitality for another campaign, along secular lines, and thus for ten more years it helped to brighten the Sundays of the miners in Caribou. It entered upon the last stage of its career in the year 1880 at Emory, on the lower Fraser, in the workshop of the *Island Sentinel*, which had just been started by M. Hagan, an Irish Catho-

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lic; and this was finally terminated about 1912 at Kamloops, where that publication had been transferred shortly after its inception. In the same year, 1912, M. Wade, the proprietor of the *Sentinel*, presented the ancient and venerable press to the nuns of Saint Anne at Kamloops. It is to-day carefully preserved in the convent belonging to the same Order at Victoria, a noble relic of the past, and is regarded with the same religious respect as surrounds the no less venerable press of James Evans, in Victoria College, Toronto.

We have not yet spoken of any other products of printing than newspapers, because for a long time in British Columbia, although the art had already begun to thrive and spread, newspapers enjoyed practically a monopoly of the presses. Amidst this turbulent population, where order was only enforced by degrees, there was certainly place for political activity, and for plenty of such activity; but it was a long time before the time was ripe for the introduction of the arts, the sciences and for literature, or even, to a certain extent, for religion. Politicians had little need of books or pamphlets, for the newspapers adequately served their purposes, and literature made few demands in its own service, for as yet it scarcely existed in this Province. It must not be imagined, however, that there were no books, and still more, no pamphlets, produced in the early days of printing in British Columbia. From the beginning the requirements of the

THE
Fraser Mines Vindicated,
OR
THE HISTORY OF FOUR MONTHS.

— ◆ ◆ ◆ —
BY
ALFRED WADDINGTON.

.....
PRICE. FIFTY CENTS
.....

"Scribitur ad narrandum sed ad probandum."
QUINCTILIAN.

— ◆ —
VICTORIA:
PRINTED BY P. DE GARRO, WHARF STREET.
1858.

The cover page of a 46-page book printed by Count de Garro
in 1858, the second book to be printed
on Vancouver Island.

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administrative and judicial authorities, the colonizing propaganda and the mining reports demanded certain publications in the form of books, for which collectors pay large sums to-day in spite of the long vanished interest of their contents and their worn appearance, and which antiquarians on the Pacific Coast regard as incunabula no less precious and no less venerable than those of the remote 15th century. The first of these in chronological order is a simple law book prepared by the Chief Justice Cameron and published, at the end of 1858, as a quarto book of 86 pages entitled: *Rules of practice of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice, Vancouver's Island*. The second followed only a few days later, but the interval was just long enough to oblige the author to change, in a last-minute note, a statement in his preface proclaiming his book to be the first printed on Vancouver Island. It was a pamphlet of 46 pages by Alfred Waddington, entitled *The Fraser Mines Vindicated or The History of Four Months*, on the cover of which we read to-day with some amusement that the original publisher's price was fifty cents; and appears to have been the only work, outside his newspaper, which was produced by the noble Count whom we have already mentioned as the pioneer of printing in British Columbia. It bears indeed the following imprint: "Victoria, Printed by Paul de Garro, Wharf Street, 1858." If M. de Garro was able thus to proclaim himself a printer, Mr. D. C. McMurtrie must be mis-

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taken when he states, in his otherwise excellent work on the first printing in British Columbia, that he believed the *Courrier de la Nouvelle-Calédonie* to have been printed by Frederick Marriott.

It would certainly be idle to enumerate here the various publications which followed closely upon each other during the following years, and which were issued either by the Government Printing Office or from the workshop of the *Colonist*. These included the governor's proclamations, various guides for the use of immigrants, and even the first *Directory* of British Columbia, which was produced in 1863. However, it may be stated that the Printing Art had been born upon the Pacific coast and was full of vitality; we may leave it there with its future assured, and return to the great district comprising the western part of middle Canada which we have for a short time abandoned.

Even after the death of James Evans in 1846 his press continued to function for a number of years in the same theatre, and even in the year 1857 we find Gospels in the Cree tongue which were printed on the press of the Rossville Mission at Norway House, but still this was printing executed in accordance with the official stipulation that it be for religious purposes only, and it was not until the year 1859 that public opinion found means of expression in the Canadian West.

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A rumour had begun to circulate that the district of Assiniboia would shortly be elevated to the rank of a Crown Colony, and more than one printer in Ontario, and even some Americans, relying upon a rapid development of the country under the new regime, began to dream of proceeding thither to try their fortune. The first to undertake the difficult journey was a Detroit journalist; but having committed the error of following the Lake Superior route, he could not get any further than the Sault Ste. Marie, where his heavy equipment had to be left behind, and he was compelled to retrace his steps, completely discouraged. About the middle of the year 1859 two Ontario journalists, William Buckingham and William Coldwell, resolved in their turn to make the attempt, but profiting by the experience of their American confrère, they were careful to select another route.

In order to reduce to the minimum the expenses of transportation, they conceived the idea of purchasing the larger part of their necessary equipment in the West to which they were going, at the nearest possible point to their destination, and this point they found would be Saint Paul, in the state of Minnesota. It was therefore from this point that they set forth on September 28th, 1859, after lengthy preparations, and having provided themselves at the same time with type, galleys, ink and paper, and with an ancient, out-of-date hand press on which the *Saint Paul Pioneer* had been

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printed in the year 1849. In the first numbers of *The Nor'-Wester*, which they produced on their arrival, and which lie before us as we write, Messrs. Buckingham and Coldwell have themselves related the various incidents of their epic journey. We have already noted, in an earlier chapter, the painful experiences of Fleury Mesplet in 1775 when he undertook to transport his printing equipment from Philadelphia to Montreal by way of Albany and Lake Champlain, but infinitely more difficult was the voyage accomplished three-quarters of a century later by our two Ontario journalists between Saint Paul and Fort Garry. To undertake such a journey across the Canadian West, a territory as vast as the ocean and as dangerous, at a period when there were as yet neither railways nor even proper roads, assuredly must have required the *aes triplex* with which Horace credited the mariners of old.

On the appointed day, Buckingham and Coldwell started out from Saint Paul, accompanied by a number of others who wished to obtain the benefit of their company, and taking with them three waggons loaded with food and baggage, each of which was drawn by a single ox as refractory as it was slow. On more than one occasion they were compelled to stop and retrieve on the edge of a swamp their type and their various packages of all kinds which had been scattered around by too abrupt a swerve of their stubborn oxen. Every night, after a painful advance of fifteen or twenty

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miles across difficult ground, after fording treacherous rivers, after struggling up steep hills, they were obliged to search for a suitable camping-ground and there spend the night. For thirty-three days they journeyed, meeting on their way nothing but bands of wolves, or of Indians who were scarcely more agreeable to encounter. Finally, on November 1, 1859, they reached Fort Garry, the goal of their long journey.

The worst difficulties were still to come, however. Buckingham and Coldwell had scarcely arrived in this new country, where civilization had as yet hardly penetrated, before they found themselves wondering whether they had not over-rated their own powers. Through all the region which we know to-day as Manitoba, and beyond its limits, the population numbered scarcely 8,000 to 10,000 whites, the majority of whom were half-breeds with little inclination towards any kind of literature, and even under the walls of Fort Garry there were only about fifty huts or workshops sheltering in all two or three hundred persons. Thus the prospects of success were not very brilliant. At the beginning of November, 1859, the two printers had still only one regular subscription assured for their future newspaper, and that was promised by an old Indian chief whom they had met living with his six wives on the frontier of Minnesota. However, they refused to let themselves be discouraged and immediately set to work. Installing themselves in

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an old wooden workshop close to the walls of the fort, they mounted their press, sorted their type, collected their material, and on December 29th, 1859, after having to thaw out their paper which an excessively cold night had transformed into a block of solid ice, they finally produced the first number of the first newspaper in the North-West of Canada, *The Nor'-Wester*.

Despite the apathy and the indifference of the greater part of the population, who prided themselves on learning all the local news without any extraneous assistance, and who cared little for anyone outside their own circle, the new journal gained ground day by day and finally secured a firm foothold. Even the Hudson's Bay Company, although it had good reasons for dreading the inauguration within its territories of a public organ which might exercise a surveillance as tiresome as it might be harmful, subscribed for a copy for each of the chain of posts that extended across the vast expanse of the North-West, with the result that *The Nor'-Wester* had at one time a circulation which was not large, it is true, but was the widest that could be achieved, since it extended from the shores of the Mackenzie right to the Atlantic coast. Amongst its subscribers were even some in the most distant posts whom the paper could only reach a year after date of publication. It was also the paper that was produced at the most northerly point of America, so that William Lyon Mackenzie,

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who started at Queenstown his career as a printer, wrote as follows in this regard: "I was once the most Western editor, bookseller and printer in British America, but *The Nor'-Wester* is a thousand miles beyond me."

The Nor'-Wester was remarkably well written for the period, and from the documentary point of view it is still one of the most valuable sources of information on the history of the West. Moreover, it enjoyed the services of distinguished correspondents, amongst whom it is sufficient to mention Thomas D'Arcy McGee, whose name was not attached to his writings however. It was especially popular with the people because of its independent attitude, and when the Council of Assiniboia, in spite of the persistence of Mgr Taché, refused permission for the paper, in 1860, to report its proceedings, there was a general outburst of indignation around Fort Garry, and the Hudson's Bay Company promptly realised that its own star was paling and that henceforth it must reckon with a new and formidable power.

Meanwhile there had been a change of government in England, and one of the consequences of this was that the proposal to make Assiniboia a Crown Colony was indefinitely postponed. Buckingham decided that he would not wait any longer and sold his share of the interest in the paper to James Ross, who in his turn transferred this shortly after to Dr. Schultz, the future Governor of Manitoba. In 1865 *The Nor'-Wester* was almost completely

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wiped out in a disastrous fire, but thanks to co-operation of a somewhat unexpected nature, such as that of the Anglican bishop of Rupert's Land, it finally rose again from the ashes. William Coldwell in his turn withdrew from the paper after he had assisted in placing it once more upon its feet. Even up to the year 1870, under the vigorous management of Dr. Schultz and later under that of Rollin P. Meade and Dr. Bown, *The Nor'-Wester* continued to be "a thorn in the side of the Hudson's Bay Company". In spite of the fact that it was able to resist direct opposition, however, and still more the subterranean machinations of the powerful company, it was fated to perish beneath the attacks of that same demagoguery which it had encouraged. It was simply suppressed in January, 1870, by Louis Riel, the head of the new provisional government, who had no more reason for approving of this born adversary of all governments than had the representatives of the Hudson's Bay Company.

About the same time, whilst the provisional government was setting up for itself a new organ, *The New Nation*, William Coldwell, one of the fathers of *The Nor'-Wester*, had returned to Fort Garry after an absence of some years, and set to work to produce another newspaper, *The Red River Pioneer*. He had already begun printing a proclamation of the Hon. Wm. McDougall, the administrator recently nominated by the Canadian Government, when Louis Riel, learning of his plans, burst into the work-

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shop and with the assistance of pistols and muskets, succeeded in inducing the printers to fill the remainder of the paper with articles that favoured the rebellious element. The result was that the number issued on January 7, 1870, bore on its front page the title *The Pioneer* with a number of loyal articles, and upon the last page the heading *The New Nation* and revolutionary writings.

The *Red River Pioneer* did not continue its career whilst *The New Nation*, which was edited first by an American, H. M. Robinson, and then by Thomas Spence, brought its own brief and stormy existence to an abrupt conclusion in October, 1870, with the flight of Riel and the end of the Rising of the Half-Breeds.

With the creation of the province of Manitoba, a new era dawned with an horizon that grew brighter and brighter, and the progress of the journalistic art, that is to say, of printing, gained proportionately. Passing over without comment the *News Letter*, an ephemeral little journal which appeared, at the close of 1870, as the last echo of the expiring opposition, and the *Liberal* of Stewart Mulvey, which lasted but two years, several periodicals came into being about the same time which occupied an important place in the ensuing history of Manitoba.

First of all came William Coldwell who, undaunted by the lack of success of his *Pioneer*, formed an association with Robert Cunningham and out of the debris of *The New Nation*

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founded, towards the end of 1870, the *Manitoban*. This journal, after a short but honourable career, was combined, in 1874, with the *Standard*, under the direction of Molyneux St. John.

In 1871 Joseph Royal established in his turn a paper called the *Metis*, in Saint Boniface; this, having shortly afterwards changed its name to that of *Manitoba*, was during many years the principal organ of the French population of the North-West.

In 1872 we find, in connection with the starting of the *Manitoba Free Press*, the name of William Fisher Luxton, one of the stars that have shone most brightly in the history of newspaper work in the West. Prior to the inception of the paper, Luxton had been the first lay teacher in Winnipeg. A writer "sans peur et sans reproche," he devoted himself to his task for more than twenty years, but at last, disheartened by the numerous disasters which he brought upon himself through his independence and his passion for justice, he gave up the struggle and emigrated to Saint Paul, where he died towards the end of the last century. Winnipeg, however, does not forget the eminent services which Luxton rendered, and by way of compensation for the injustice with which he was treated, a street and one of the principal schools in that city are named in memory of him.

When we have noted the establishment in 1874, of another *Nor'-Wester*, under the control of Alexander Begg, which, after having

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shown itself a tough opponent of the *Free Press* was ultimately merged in the *Winnipeg Telegram*; and, in 1878, the founding of the *Telegraph* of Nursey, which supported the interests of the Macdonald administration and the existence of which was more lively than prosperous; we have already reached the period when Manitoba Printing had emerged from its swaddling clothes. From this time on, the number of newspapers in Winnipeg has been steadily increasing and with them the printing-shops which supplied nourishment in a hundred different directions for the rapidly-growing population. In a word, the development of the West had begun, and already some inklings of its future grandeur might be discerned. Little by little, beyond Fort Garry, which was now Winnipeg, villages and then towns sprang up in which printing was successively implanted.

At Battleford, then the capital of the North-West Territories, Patrick Gammie Laurie, the former proprietor of the *News Letter* of 1871, after a journey of seventy-two days over a 600 mile route without a single bridge or a solitary ferry, established in 1878 the first printing press that was in regular operation between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains. The *Saskatchewan Herald*, born in humble circumstances in a wretched hut, is still in existence to-day, more than a century later, and up to two years ago was still in the hands of the courageous founder's son.

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Shortly afterwards it was the turn of Edmonton, the future capital of Alberta, to take up the printing art with the inception of the *Bulletin* of Frank Oliver. The Hon. Frank Oliver later related the story of the manner in which a pure chance induced him to embark on the precarious undertaking. Whilst still a young man, he was at Winnipeg looking for some means of making his way, when a Philadelphia newspaper happened to come into his hands which announced the sale of a hand press at a reduced price. He seized the opportunity; gave instructions to have the rudimentary machine sent to him; and then, with a confidence in the future which was in truth prophetic, he turned his eyes towards the most distant point which he could hope to reach and set out for Edmonton. On December 6th, 1880, he was in a position to produce the first number of his newspaper. At first the *Edmonton Bulletin* was but a sheet in small type, five inches by seven, rather roughly printed, but it has since made for itself a glorious path, and when, not long ago, its founder decided to retire and enjoy the rest which has been so well earned after forty-three years' work, his paper was already appearing in twelve, and sometimes even in twenty pages, and had become one of the most powerful and influential organs of public opinion in Western Canada.

After the founding, in 1882, of the *Times* of J. D. Maveety and Thomas Spink at Prince Albert, and of the *Gazette*, which was started

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at Fort Macleod in that year by two former members of the Mounted Police, E. T. Saunders and C. E. D. Wood, we find two other newspapers established almost simultaneously, in 1883, one at Calgary and the other at Regina, journals which to-day occupy an eminent position in the press of Western Canada. We refer to the *Calgary Herald* which, beginning forty-seven years ago in a canvas tent, is to-day lodged in a luxurious ten-story edifice of marble and stone; and to the *Regina Leader*, in connection with which the name will be forever remembered of Nicholas Flood Davin, its founder and one of the most brilliant journalists ever known in any part of Canada.

We should like to say something also about the establishment in this same year, 1883, of the *Sun* at Brandon and the *Liberal* at Portage-la-Prairie, of the *Progress* at Qu'Appelle in 1885, and the *News* at Lethbridge in 1886; but this would involve re-writing all the geography of an immense country and would obviously exceed the limits of the present publication. Henceforth, it is not possible to follow step by step the growth of the printing art which has proceeded at the same rapid, almost rushing speed as has the development of the West itself.

Before concluding, however, we would not omit mention of another printing undertaking which lies somewhat outside the regular track which we have just covered, but which, by its relative antiquity as well as by its picturesque

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aspect, has none the less a claim on our interest. Although the circumstances are set down in the missionary annals, it is not generally known that about the year 1877, when the printing art in Western Canada had not yet begun to stretch beyond Winnipeg, its cradle, a humble religious, the Oblate Father R. P. Grouard, had already managed to transport a complete printing outfit, although certainly a modest one, as far as Deer Lake, and was there quietly printing little books in a number of different dialects for the use of the savages. During the course of a journey in France which he had taken a short time before, for the sake of his health, the good father had devoted his leisure to learning the printing trade, and to composing prayer-books in the Indian language with type specially manufactured for this purpose in Brussels, his idea being to take back with him on his return both type and press in order that he might make use of these on the very scene of his labours, at Deer Lake and later on the Peace River. Some years afterwards, in 1888, he was transferred from the Peace River district in order to go and preach the Gospel to the even more distant tribes of the extreme north. Packing up the equipment of his Indian printing-shop, he attached it to his sledge, and driving his Eskimo dogs from camping-place to camping-place, from portage to portage, across a great desert intersected with lakes and rivers, he towed them stoically right to Lake Athabaska; and there, in the

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almost frozen lands, far beyond the confines of civilization, he took up once more, in the sight only of his Creator, his noble and heroic work as a missionary printer. Since that time it is, of course, true that printing has been carried to even greater distances, even to the Land of the Midnight Sun, with the onrush of gold-seekers in the Yukon in 1897; but none the less the little printing press of Lake Athabaska remains still the hardiest pioneer throughout the length and breadth of Canada. We know of no one who has carried so far beyond inhabited lands the benefits of the most benevolent and the most civilizing of all the inventions of the modern world. James Evans made his name justly famous in adventuring to Norway House, three hundred miles north of Winnipeg, to print there his first books, but it should never be forgotten that after him the enterprising Catholic missionary, only forty years later, succeeded in extending another three hundred miles in the same northerly direction, together with the realm of Christianity that also of the Printing Art. Moreover the Lake Athabaska press has another claim on distinction, in that it was operated by episcopal hands, not only those of R. P. Grouard himself, who became in 1890 Bishop of Ibara and Vicar-Apostolic of Athabaska, but also those of Mgr Faraud who, during his apostolic journeyings, did not disdain to serve sometimes as an apprentice of his devoted colleague. This last item of news we feel may not be without some

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interest for printers, for the fraternity, however glorious its story, cannot claim many bishops amongst its members.

With these last pages, in which we have endeavoured to set out briefly the beginnings of printing in Western Canada, though in a manner which, unhappily, is very incomplete, because of the obscurity in which they are still enveloped in spite of their comparatively recent date, our task is concluded. In no case, neither in reference to Quebec and Ontario, nor for the West and the Maritime Provinces, was it our mission to describe the state of perfection to which this marvellous instrument for intellectual and social progress has been brought; nor to award their mead of praise to all those who, by their mastery of its processes, have assisted in developing its full value. It was not the goal attained that required to be described, for that is visible to any onlooker; rather it was the starting-point which it was desired to rescue from shadows that were already distant and in which there was danger that it might be forever lost. This backward glance should serve not only to restore to those valiant workmen of early days, the real artisans who built up the success achieved to-day, the credit which we are always prone to forget; if it has not failed in its object, it should carry a valuable message of confidence, a cheering promise for the future, especially for the printer, to

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whom it offers an opportunity to measure the ground that has been covered. If Canadian Printing, beginning so humbly, has been able, after a century and a half in the oldest provinces, and even after half a century in the newer ones, to attain the marvellous efficiency that we witness to-day, who can prophecy a boundary to its achievements in the future, if those who to-day control its destiny continue to devote to its service, as to the service of their country, the same energy, the same perseverance, the same ingenuity, and the same professional conscience of which their enterprising predecessors have left so many proofs. It is no exaggeration to claim that the possibilities for the printing art in Canada are practically limitless, and we may rest assured that they will be fully explored. We have a guarantee of this in the hard-won achievements of its glorious past.

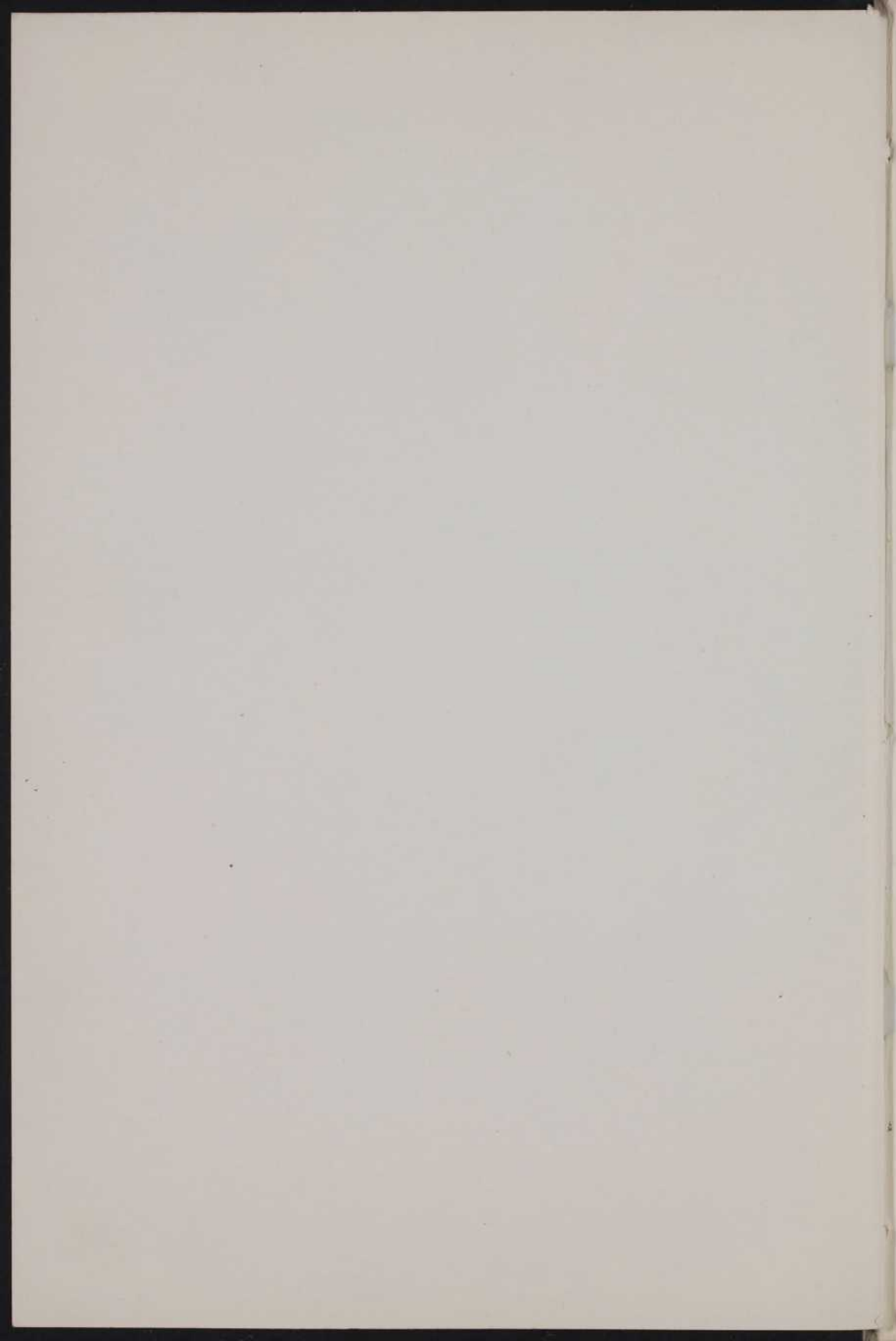
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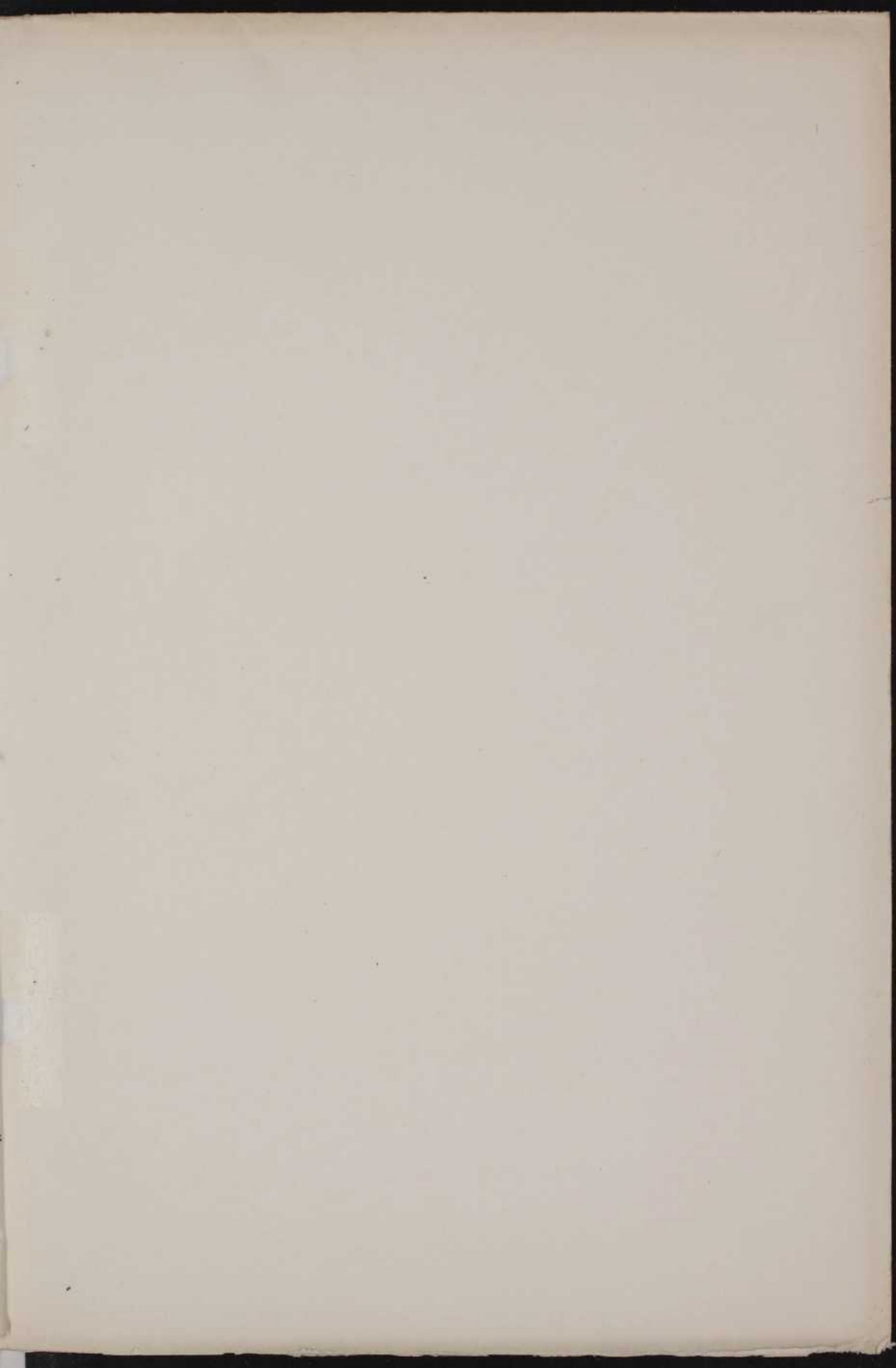
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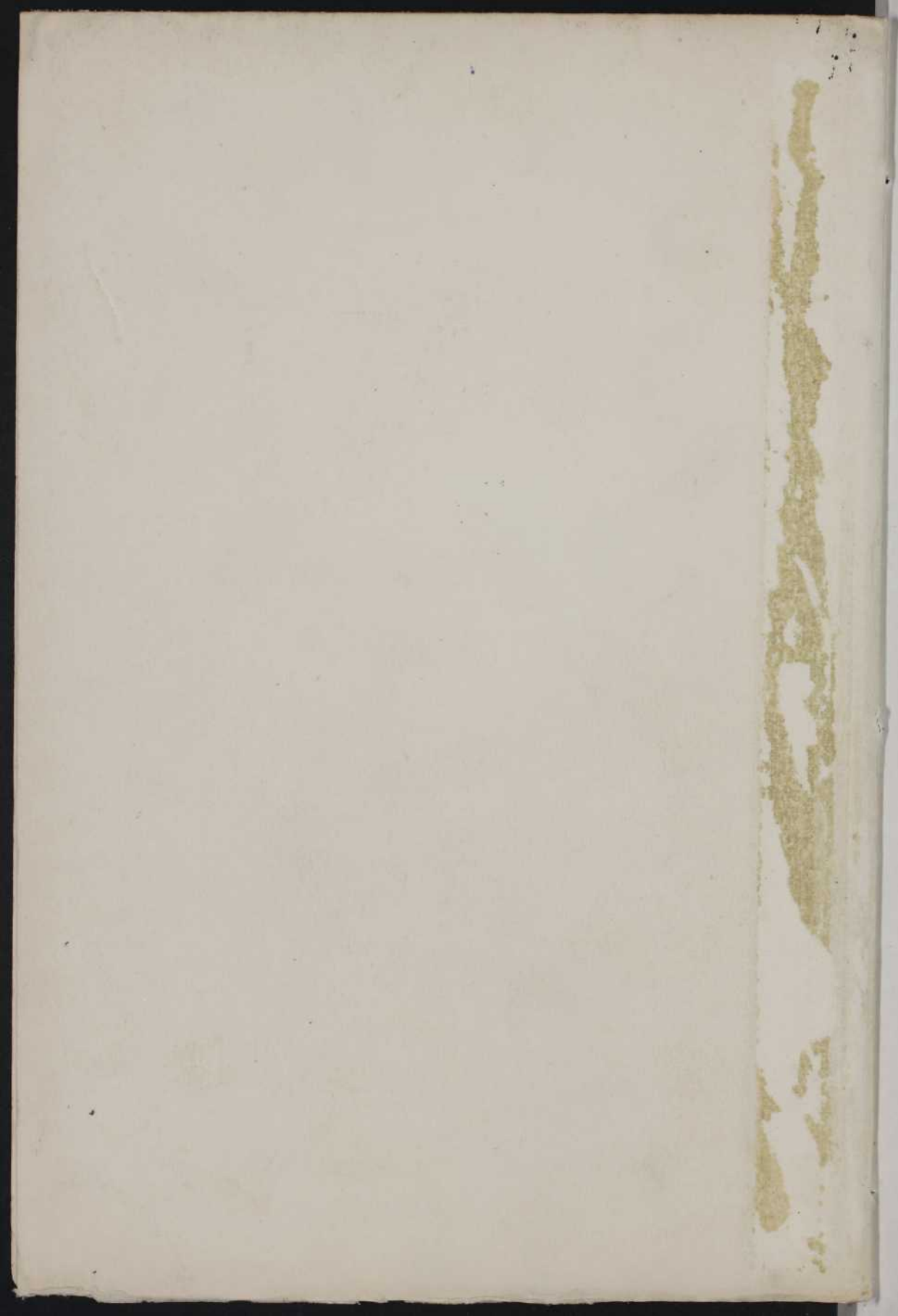


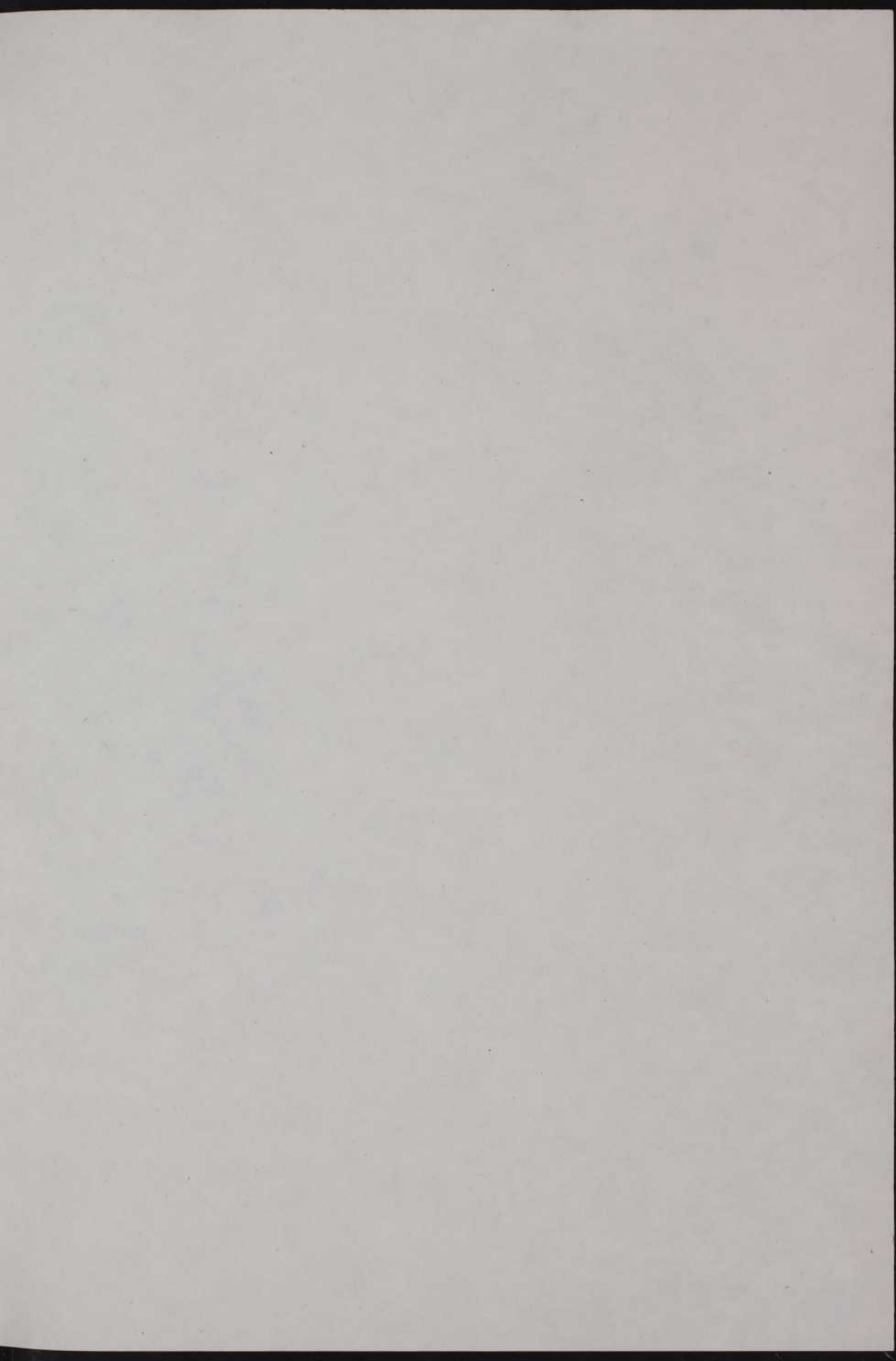
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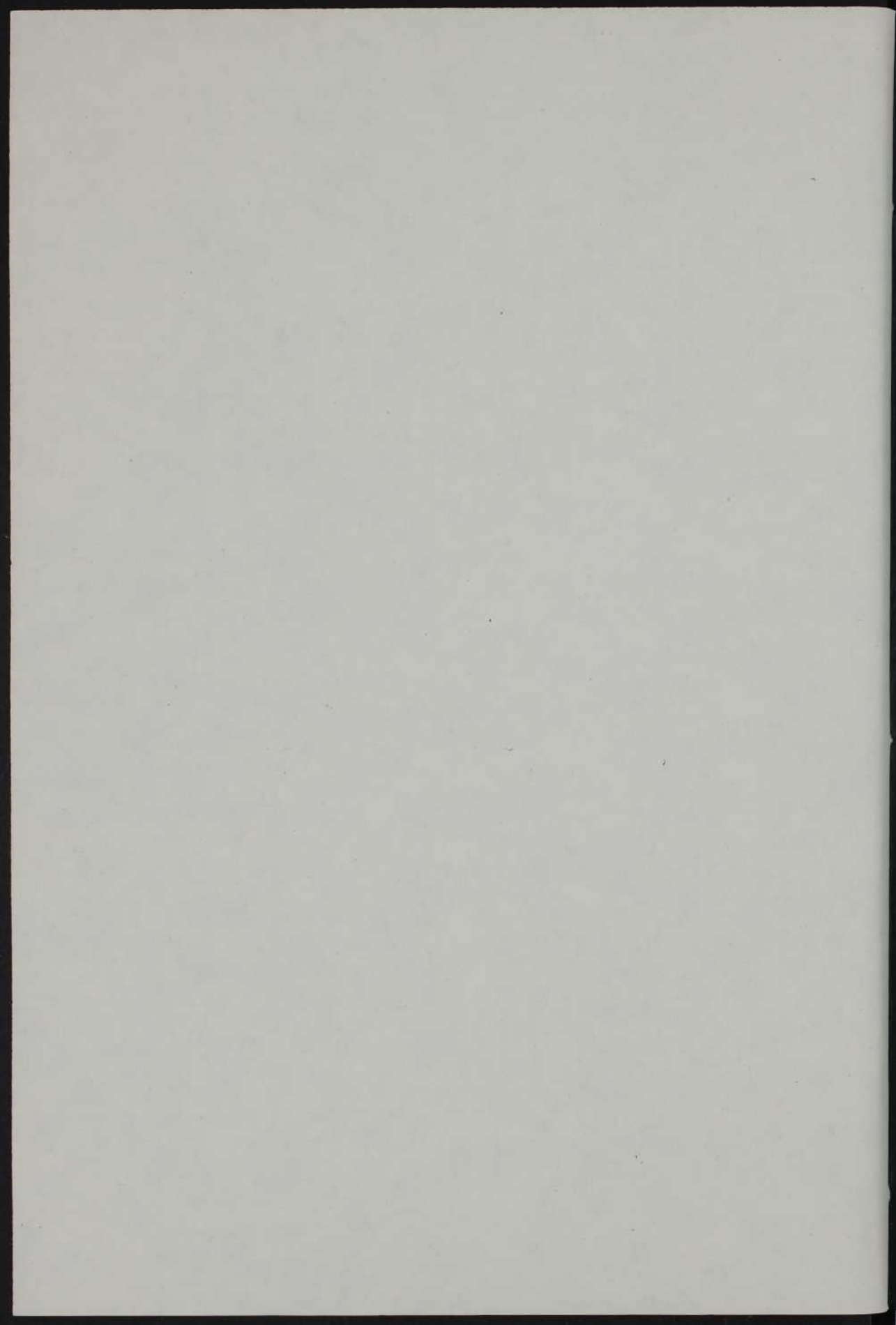


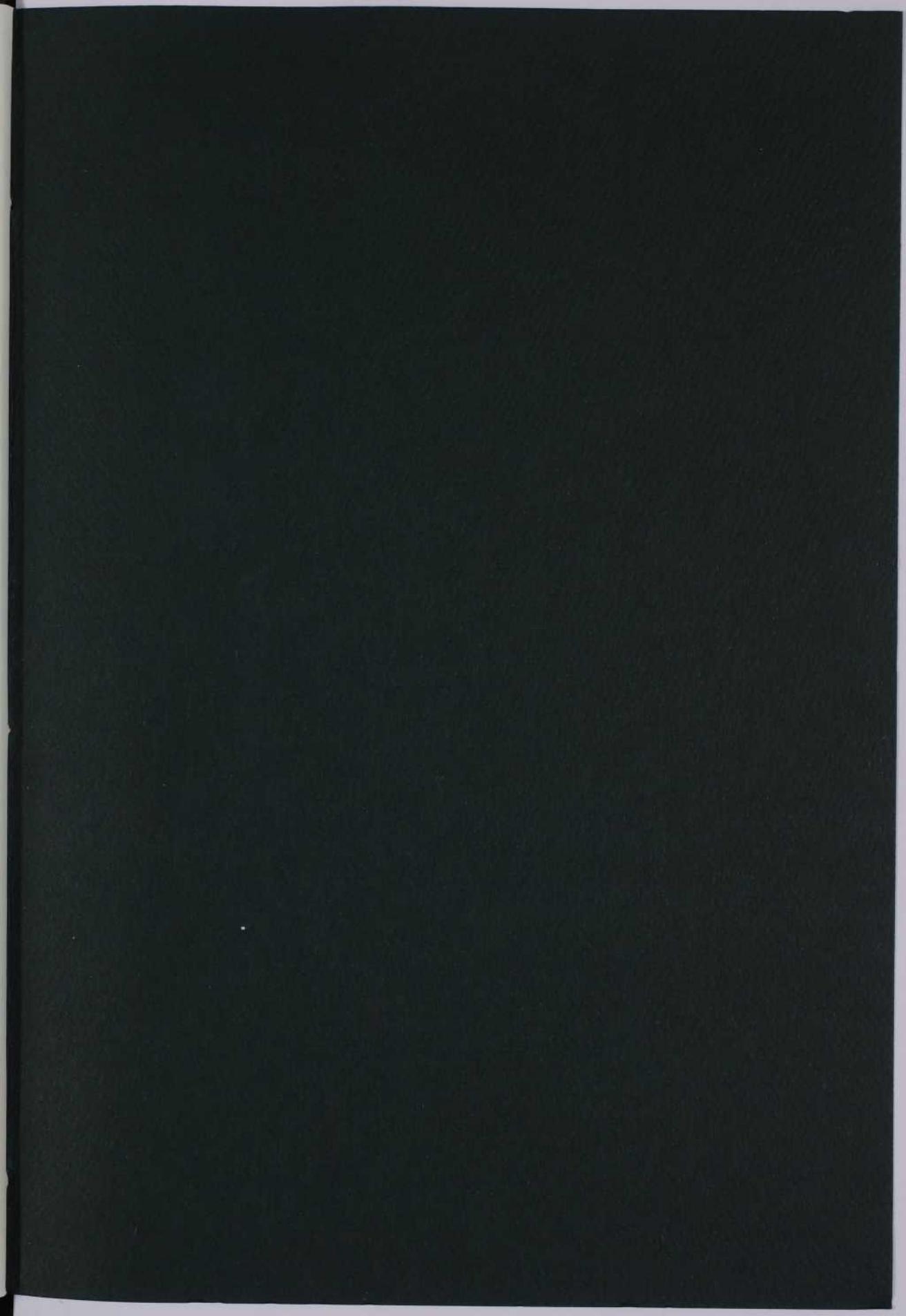












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