The Problems of Journalism: An Annotated Bibliography of Press Criticism
In Editor & Publisher, 1901-1923

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A search for the national conversation about journalism in the trade press during the early 20th century faces one formidable barrier – there appear to be no indexes comparable to those that exist for periodicals. However, a review of the trade journals of that time reveals a wealth of discussion, analysis, and judgment about what were called “the problems of journalism.” The following is an annotated bibliography of those discussions of ethical issues and the problems of journalism in the newspaper press that appeared in the newspaper trade journal Editor & Publisher from the journal’s first year in 1901 through June 1923 after the ASNE adopted the first nationwide code of ethics for the industry. This bibliography is a rich resource that elucidates a time of upheaval in journalism not unlike our own today when, as Editor & Publisher once noted, the newspaper was “undergoing a searching investigation and analysis.”
In her useful bibliographic resource, “Criticism of the Press in U.S. Periodicals, 1900-1939: An Annotated Bibliography,” Linda Weiner Hausman noted that the criticism of the press had not “been treated as an important aspect of the history of journalism.” And she implied that part of that problem was that much of that criticism was “more dispersed and less accessible” than the criticism that could be found in periodicals.1 Certainly a search for the discussion and debate surrounding the criticism of journalism in the trade press during the early twentieth century faces one formidable barrier – there appear to be no indexes to the trade press comparable to those that exist for periodicals. And yet, a painstaking review of the trade journals of that time reveals a wealth of press criticism – and by that is meant not only censure, but also the broader context of discussion, analysis, and judgment about what were called “the problems of journalism.”

Why the trade press is important

The trade press of any industry is a resource that can be mined by the historian because the functions of a trade publication were as a “clearinghouse for ideas,” as a “crusading organ,” and sometimes as “the conscience of the very people it serves,” as one business magazine scholar observed.2 More than one hundred years ago, The British Printer similarly extolled the virtues of the trade journal. It noted that even then such journals had become one of the best educators about the professions. “Since the general abrogation of trade mysteries – better known as secrets of the trade” – such publications were to be complimented for spreading the technical knowledge needed by the trades and professions, which benefited the community as a whole. “So well has this become recognized that a man is regarded as behind the times who does not take and read at least one journal devoted to this own trade or profession,” The British Printer advised.3

Certainly, in America as early as 1895, the trade press had reached a position of importance to many trades and professions. A brief history of the trade press that appeared in Printers’ Ink in 1938 noted: “The odds had been tremendous. The old-time business man believed in maintaining a veil of secrecy over all his movements. He was extremely jealous of competitors and the idea of publishing news concerning the flow of business was not at all relished.”4 Early in its life, the trade press covered a wide scope of topics related to a field. But ultimately it began to focus and specialize in certain branches of businesses. Publications about railroads, carriages, the leather business, and dry goods were some of the earliest business papers. Early on, the publications were viewed as “a luxury and support was to be had only through cultivating the vanity of manufacturers. Facts were ignored in favor of windy write-ups given in return for advertising contracts,” Printers’ Ink noted. However, driven by advertisers who sought legitimate circulation, the trade press attempted to appeal to readers with “progressive and fearless news-gathering methods,” the journal observed. Given that change, the trade press grew from twenty-five
publications in 1869 to nearly 800 trade papers in 1897, when the papers contained a better quality of writing, were better looking, and printed on better paper. Though still in its infancy in 1897, “there was no longer doubt that the business journal had become a factor in the life of trade, rather than a parasite upon it.”

In 1912, Frank Leroy Blanchard, managing editor of Editor & Publisher, told the National Press Association in Chicago that trade papers of the past had been “crude in appearance” and contained little that was original, with most articles clipped from other publications. However, he observed: “The trade journal of to-day is rich in advertising, is printed on fine paper, is generously illustrated and typographically attractive. Its province is to supply its readers not only with the news of the trade, but to give them the results of the experience of men who are the recognized leaders in the field.”

Similarly, in 1910, Wesley A. Stanger, vice president of the Class Periodical Company of Chicago and editor of the Office Outfitter, extolled the virtues of the trade press in the modern Industrial era. He told the Cincinnati Advertising Club: “The trade paper is the paper that the retailer reads as the devotee reads his Bible. To the retailer it is the only means he has of getting an unbiased view of what is going on in his field.” In addition, he noted, the trade paper is “inspirational” and a venue for the “interchange of ideas.”

Additionally, in evidencing why the newspaper trade press is an essential historical source, the work of two recent media scholars are central. Jeff Rutenbeck noted in “Triumph of News Over Ideas In American Journalism: The Trade Journal Debate, 1872-1915,” that newspaper trade journals were “promising locales” for exploring some facets of the industry’s shift in perspective about how post-partisan newspapers now sustained by commercial interests should act. Additionally, Patrick Lee Plaisance, in a content analysis of trade journal discourse about ethics, noted that such journals “provide an important gauge of the development of ethical thought among reporters and editors.” In his analysis he found that historical events involving journalistic ethics affected the amount of discussion in the trade journals about ethical issues.

Among the many things the journals concerned themselves with was the changing role of newspapers in American life, Rutenbeck found. In 1917, Editor & Publisher noted that it was written and edited for newspaper and advertising men who were “on top of events” in their fields. “They are interested in NEWS of the newspaper and advertising fields more deeply than in the general news of the day – and so this publication aims to give them the worth-while news of these fields, eliminating the piffle and trivial and emphasizing the events which carry significance and general interest.”

But more specifically, why exploring this rich resource is important can be seen in the trade press’s contribution around the turn of the last century to the debate about the ethics of journalism that led, ultimately, to the adoption of the first nationwide code of ethics for the newspaper press – the Canons of Journalism – by the American Society of Newspaper Editors in 1923. At that convention on April 27 of that year, the ASNE’s founding president, Casper Yost, sounded a call to the assembled editors to “counteract” the “attacks upon the integrity of journalism.” He then said “the Society has no more important purpose” than to “consider and perhaps establish ethical standards of professional conduct.”

The editors that Yost spoke to on that day had all lived through years of criticism of and debate about the perceived ethical lapses of the nation’s newspapers that came from magazines, books – but most especially the trade press. In fact, a review of more than twenty years of Editor & Publisher revealed all of the topics that appeared in the Canons of Journalism were given considerable space in the trade journal. Indeed, nearly every week, Editor & Publisher would run articles and editorials seeking to influence the behavior of the newspaper, extol its virtues, and defend it from unwarranted criticism, especially by those it believed did not know what they were talking about. And embedded in that conversation was the kind of discussion and debate that fed the analyses of those who ultimately formalized and set forth the normative standards of journalism that we still live with today.

Method and organization

What follows here, then, is an annotated bibliography of the discussion of ethical issues and the problems of journalism in the newspaper press that appeared in the weekly newspaper trade journal
Editor & Publisher from the journal’s first year of publication in 1901 (beginning in June) through June 1923 after the ASNE adopted the first nationwide code of ethics for the industry. With a scattering of issues missing from the microfiche database from the University of Michigan, these discussions were culled from a page-by-page review of every available issue.

While the following summaries are by no means all-encompassing, it is hoped they are thorough. It should be noted, however, that due to the constraints of space for this particular venue, I have edited and culled some of the more than 500 citations found in a review of those 22 years. Most of the following citations are annotated to one degree or another. However, there are many whose lengthy titles offer an excellent summary of the accompanying article or editorial in which an annotation would have been redundant.

These citations have also been arranged by date – earliest to latest – within the categories: accuracy and truth; sensationalism; independence; impartiality; freedom of the press; foreign-language press; press agents and propaganda; responsibility of the press; and education and professionalism.

It should be noted that there are other trade journals deserving of similar study such as The Fourth Estate, Newspaperdom, and The Journalist (which merged with Editor & Publisher in 1907) that discussed the many problems and challenges of journalism. However, this study focuses on Editor & Publisher because it was the newspaper industry’s primary trade journal during this time. It was the journal that one writer in 1913 lauded as “the Bible of the American newspaperman” and to “the craft what the London Times is to an Englishman.”

Those were sentiments that Frank Leroy Blanchard, Editor & Publisher’s managing editor, heartily agreed with in lauding the work of his journal. In 1916 he told the Kansas Newspaper Conference at the University of Kansas:

I have no hesitancy in saying that the trade press has done more to standardize the practice of journalism, and to bring editors and publishers together, than anything else.

Let me enumerate for you some of the services the journalistic trade press is rendering right along. Perhaps the most important of all is its maintenance of the highest ideals of the profession – ideals that have been created by the master minds of journalism during the 300 years of its history. They may be modified or changed from one generation to another to meet new conditions as they arise, but in any event they have never been higher than they are in this year of our Lord 1916.

If you will search through the pages of the representative trade papers you will not find a line that advocates the slightest departure from those principles of business or ethical conduct that are held essential to the achievement of the best in human attainment. If these publications did nothing else but this, they would be worthy of the support of every person deserving of the name of journalist.

Certainly, Editor & Publisher had the right to boast about its conduct over the years. The fact was, the trade journal had been at the forefront of the industry’s discussion about professionalism and journalistic norms, Mary Cronin and James McPherson found in their study of state press association ethics codes from the 1920s before the adoption of the Canons of Journalism. The trade journal railed against fake stories, biased parasitism, the suppression of news, sensationalism, and breaking trust with readers. On the other hand, it promoted the need for honesty, truthfulness, and accuracy in the pages of newspapers.

One other thing to note here, too, is how Editor & Publisher held to the American newspaper’s tradition of clipping items and running them verbatim or in a summary. In doing so, the journal acted as a public sphere in offering portals to discursive venues across the country. Its pages offered numerous criticisms, laudations, and discussions by politicians, government officials, divines, social scientists, reformers, academics, readers, editors, publishers, and even journalists working in the trenches, much of which would have undoubtedly been lost to history. In fact, this review of every page of Editor & Publisher’s first two decades and more found a considerable amount of the discussion about newspapers was not original to the journal but drawn from a multiplicity of sources. And those sources could be critical or defensive and didactic or even provocative.

That is why this bibliography is a rich resource that elucidates a time of upheaval in journalism not unlike our own today when, as one Editor &
Publisher editorial noted, the newspaper was “undergoing a searching investigation and analysis.” This more than two decades of investigation and analysis answers the call for a source of thick description of the debates, arguments and ideas of the time that help unpack the history of the growing consciousness of modern journalistic normative standards.

Bibliography

Accuracy & truth

1. “Publishers Should Protect the Public.” Editor & Publisher, August 24, 1901, 4. Editorial that argued the standard of fairness, accuracy and truthfulness would go a long way to newspapers attaining the respect of their readers.

2. “The Newspaper Profession.” Editor & Publisher, April 19, 1902, 4. An editorial insisted that newspapers should offer news that was fair, accurate, and truthful for that was the path to success as a business.

3. “For a Truthful Press.” Editor & Publisher, May 18, 1907, 4. Edgar R. Howe, publisher of the Imperial (California) Daily Standard, offered a reform plan to “keep liars out of the newspaper calling” by creating a newspaper commission that would oversee the licensing of journalists.

4. “On Press Delusions.” Editor & Publisher, August 22, 1908, 3. John S Sleicher, editor of Leslies’ Weekly, said in a speech on “Some Delusions of the Press” that what was needed was “better news a day late and right than a day earlier and wrong.”

5. “What’s the Matter With the Newspapers.” Editor & Publisher, September 26, 1908, 4. Editorial asked: “Are we nearing a crisis in the newspaper world?” It was a crisis in which many a reader simply did not believe what was in his paper.

6. “Jerome Against the Newspapers.” Editor & Publisher, May 8, 1909, 8. An editorial response to an attack on newspapers by District Attorney William Travers Jerome of New York who complained that people “on the top floors of high buildings” are allowed to write whatever they want even though they may be ignorant of the subject.”


8. “Newspaper Accuracy: Editors Want Men to Write the Truth Says James Keeley.” Editor & Publisher, July 10, 1909, 8. Excerpt of speech by James Keeley, managing editor of the Chicago Tribune, on “The Function of the Newspaper,” in which he said editors “want men to write the truth interestingly, not men who can write ‘fake’ stories.”


11. “Accuracy the Foundation. Essential to Permanent Newspaper Success, Says St. Louis Editor.” Editor & Publisher, July 9, 1910, 6. George S. Johns, editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, in a speech said accuracy “is the foundation of permanent newspaper success. Newspaper inaccuracy and unreliability are the shortest cuts to public scorn and contempt.”

12. “The Reporter.” Editor & Publisher, April 4, 1911, 8. Guidelines for the reporter to include accuracy, brevity, and promptness.

13. “Importance of Accuracy.” Editor & Publisher, May 20, 1911, 12. A short editorial on accuracy observed that an error in fact can irretrievably injure a person, which is why reporters and editors should always be on guard against such errors.

14. “Mayor Gaynor Flays Press. Says New York Newspaper Proprietors are Angered to See Officials Doing Right.” Editor & Publisher, September 16, 1911, 2. Gaynor complained about the falsehoods the papers were publishing about a proposed new city charter.

15. “Deception in News Columns.” Editor & Publisher, October 14, 1911, 10. Editorial noted that honesty applies not only to advertisements but also to the news columns.

16. “Newspapers Less Accurate. Evening Post Editor Praises the Work of Journalists of 50 Years
Agos.” *Editor & Publisher*, December 9, 1911, 6.

Oswald G. Villard, editor of the *New York Evening Post*, argued that contemporary papers were not as accurate or as valuable as historical documents as the newspapers of fifty years before because they “tend to give too much space to events of only a passing interest.”

17. “Newspapers of To-Day. Chester S. Lord, of the *Sun*, Declared That They are Far Ahead of Those of Any Other Period – Advises Young Men to Specialize and Tells Why – College Graduates on the New York Daily Newspapers.” *Editor & Publisher*, November 30, 1912, 4. Chester S. Lord, managing editor of the *New York Sun*, told students at the Columbia University School of Journalism that newspapers were better than it ever “because they are more accurate in statements of fact and more fair-minded in the presentation of passing events. All decent newspapers now take pride in their accuracy of statement in the news columns and there is very little intentional misrepresentation.”

18. “Accuracy in Journalism Essential. Ralph Pulitzer at Columbia University Speaks Strongly Against Fakes and Misrepresentation in Printing the News – Describes Their Inevitable Effect Upon the Writers and the Paper That Carries Them.” *Editor & Publisher*, December 28, 1912, 4. 13. Ralph Pulitzer of the *New York World* in a speech to the School of Journalism at Columbia University on “Accuracy in Journalism,” noted that the founder of the School of Journalism, Joseph Pulitzer, “hated an inaccurate statement as another man would loathe a lie.”


20. “Condemns Colored News. Prof. Bleyer Compares It with the Adulterated Food Evil.” *Editor & Publisher*, April 19, 1913, 5. Willard C. Bleyer, journalism historian and professor at the University of Wisconsin in a speech on “The Function of the Newspaper” argued that anything that affects the accuracy of information affects the very foundations of democracy and the government. Distortion of the news, then, becomes a “question of public policy.”


22. “World’s Bureau of Accuracy: How the New York Newspaper Carries Out the Principle of Fair Play in Correcting Misstatements of Facts That Creep Into Its News and Editorial Columns.” *Editor & Publisher*, November 15, 1913, 436. Article reported bureau was attracting frequent inquiries from other newspapers considering a similar system.

23. “Accuracy Bureau’s Report. Practical Results Obtained by New York World in Running Down Complaints and Errors.” *Editor & Publisher*, March 14, 1914, 777. Report noted the bureau had improved performance by its staff but also had “spread the gospel of accuracy and fair play in journalism throughout the newspaper world.”

24. “No Place for Liars: Bernard Gruenstein, of St. Louis Republican, Says They can’t Exist on Modern Newspaper.” *Editor & Publisher*, February 19, 1916, 1124. Bernard Gruenstein, church editor of the *St. Louis Republic*, in a speech titled “Swatting the Lie in Journalism,” said that in newspapers “Imperfection there may be, but a deliberate untruth is becoming more and more an impossibility. The lying paper is a losing one.”

25. “By James Melvin Lee: Discussing, at the Public Forum of a Church, Newspaper Ethics He Explains the Daily Papers’ Attitude Toward Activities of Clergyman and Lauds Decent Advertising.” *Editor & Publisher*, February 26, 1916, 1150. James Melvin Lee, director of the Department of Journalism at New York University, argued that assembling a code of ethics for journalism would be impossible because it would involve more than a “rule of thumb.” Yet, all newspapers had to do was adhere to a basic journalistic principle: “plain, old-fashioned, unselfish honesty.”

26. “Newspaper Development: How It Appears to Richard H. Waldo, of the *New York Tribune*.” *Editor & Publisher*, March 25, 1916, 1286. Richard H. Waldo, secretary of the *New York Tribune*, said in a speech that all parts of a newspaper had one factor they all had to adhere to “and that one factor is – the Truth. From it, everything; without it, nothing, in news, editorials, advertisements.”
27. “‘Accuracy’ – The Common Ideal.” Editor & Publisher, November 25, 1916, 18. “Referring to the policies of the New York World, city editor Herbert Bayard Swope said: “We aim more diligently than any other paper in the world for accuracy. Still, he lamented, “The fallibility of human testimony is the barrier facing editors who battle for accuracy.”

28. “Great Importance of Accuracy Emphasized in Journalism Class.” Editor & Publisher, January 20, 1917, 14. A list of advice regarding accuracy in journalism given to journalism students at the University of Wisconsin.

29. “Beg Your Pardon!” Editor & Publisher, August 25, 1917, 20. Editorial noted the Chicago Tribune had created a “BEG YOUR PARDON!” department to correct errors. Argued that: “All good newspapers strive toward the accuracy ideal.”

30. Jones, Robert. “Accuracy and Fairness Only Win Confidence of Readers: Libel Suits Stare Owners in Face When Newspaper Makes Charges It Cannot Prove – An Object Lesson to Impress Care Upon Editorial Workers.” Editor & Publisher, April 20, 1921, 44, 46. Robert Jones, a journalism professor at the University of Washington, said that in a large democracy the only way a government can succeed is if its newspapers are accurate and fair “for without accurate and fair newspapers to rely on, how can good counsel and good policies prevail?”

31. “An Appeal for the Truth.” Editor & Publisher, November 20, 1920, 26. Editorial argued that: “Truth is the very soul of journalism. Without truth there is no public confidence, and without the trust and confidence of its readers journalism is powerless.”


35. “Dishonest Reporting.” Editor & Publisher, July 22, 1922, 26. Editorial noted deliberate misrepresentation injured the credibility of not only the offending newspaper, but all newspapers.

36. Clarke, Arthur L. “Are Newspapers Unreliable?” Editor & Publisher, November 4, 1922, 34. Editorial by Arthur L. Clarke, editor of The San Francisco Chronicle, that rebutted the charge that newspapers often failed to tell the truth and the homily “You can’t believe a word you read in the newspapers.”

37. “Calls Literature and Journalism Equal: Sigma Delta Chi, at Annual Convention, Hears Newspaper Critics Answered and Muckraking Condemned – May Change Title.” Editor & Publisher, November 18, 1922, 32. Lee A. White, of the editorial staff of the Detroit News and a former president of the journalistic fraternity, defended the press against ill-founded criticism of newspapers – especially their accuracy – based on superficial analysis.

Sensationalism

38. “‘Muck Rake’ in Journalism.” Editor & Publisher, April 14, 1906, 2. Collier’s editor Norman Hapgood reacted to President Roosevelt’s pejorative description of the investigative journalism of the time as “muckraking.” Such insults were nothing new, Hapgood said.

39. “Muckrake Symposium.” Editor & Publisher, May 12, 1906, 1, 7. At symposium on muckraking, former President Cleveland criticized newspapers for hiding the news people needed among the briars of sensationalism and outright falsity.

40. “What Editor’s Think.” Editor & Publisher, May 19, 1906, 1, 6, 7. After Albert Pulitzer announced plans for a new New York newspaper in which his “purpose is to slay sensationalism,” the journal digested a New York Herald series offering the opinions of editors and newspaper owners on whether a change in journalistic methods was needed.
41. “The Right Way.” Editor & Publisher, January 5, 1907, 4. A short warning to editors to not print news of “private scandals” unless they make their way into court. “By following this rule libel suits will be avoided and the dignity of the press will be upheld.”

42. “Newspapers and War.” Editor & Publisher, April 20, 1907, 4. Article outlined editor William T. Snead’s speech in which he lambasted “unscrupulous” newspapers that were attempting to incite a war in Europe and The New York Post’s counterargument to Snead’s claims.

43. “Attacks Sensational Press.” Editor & Publisher, May 4, 1907, 8. Rev. Dr. Charles F. Aked sermon denounced sensational newspapers. “With the world so full of marvels of good, of deeply interesting things, we make a great mistake not to direct our attention, our curiosity, to all this, instead of to the merely trifling.”

44. “The Theoretical Newspaper.” Editor & Publisher, May 4, 1907, 4. Journal’s response noted that the Rev. Aked stated the obvious but avoided the fact that editors “try to fill these papers with news that will appeal to the greatest number of readers of the class to whom they cater.”

45. “Ad Men’s Convention.” Editor & Publisher, September 5, 1908, 3. Arthur Brisbane of the New York Journal defended yellow journalism in a speech titled “Twentieth Century Journalism” and said he was a representative of yellow journalism, a term he had invented. “The ‘yellow’ journal, he declared, is a perfect reflection of the people’s thoughts. It has solved the problem of reaching their imagination and getting ideas into their minds.”

46. “Purifying the Press.” Editor & Publisher, August 22, 1908, 3. Journal offered its support to the Friends’ Press Association of Baltimore, Maryland in its effort to purify the press, but went on to note “The press is what the people make it. If they want a pure press, a clean press they will get and any effort toward that direction is laudable.”

47. “Public the Editor: Dean Mathews Says Papers Print Just What Their Readers Want.” Editor & Publisher, July 31, 1909, 8. Dean Shailer Mathews of the University of Chicago divinity school said in a lecture on modern social conditions that the newspapers gave readers what they wanted.


49. “Taft on Newspapers: President in Speech Deprecates Yellow Journalism, but is Optimistic. He Spoke Extemporaneously About the Press – Criticized Headlines of Murders, Slanders and Scandals – Thinks Greater Publicity of Crime Shows We are Growing Better and Not Growing Worse.” Editor & Publisher, October 9, 1909, 1.

50. “Watterson on the Press. Discuss Personal Relations of the Newspaper Toward the Public.” Editor & Publisher, November 20, 1909, 3. Colonel Henry Watterson, editor of the Louisville Courier Journal, castigated sensationalism and the proclivity of many in the press to turn reporters into detectives to invade the privacy of individuals.

51. “Col. Watterson’s Alarm About Newspaper ‘Sensationalism’.” Editor & Publisher, November 27, 1909, 8. Editorial response said: “With unwavering regard for Colonel Watterson, the Editor and Publisher yet holds that there is no cause for alarm in the present practice of publicity, and that this practice which is alleged to interfere with ‘private right’ will grow wider and wider and the motive which demands and compels it will be the strongest guarantor of this Democracy.”

52. “Press Should be Clean. James Schermerhorn Tells Members of Des Moines Ad Club.” Editor & Publisher, January 29, 1910, 2. James Schermerhorn, editor and publisher of the Detroit Times, called for a cleaner press. “The day is coming, I believe, when laws will be enacted looking toward a cleaner press. Several States have already done this, and I think the daily newspaper publisher should see the handwriting on the wall.”


54. “Print What People Want. Tragedy and
Comedy More Entertaining Than Prosaic.” *Editor & Publisher*, May 28, 1910, 2. Dr. C. H. Parkhurst, writing in the *New York Evening Journal*, defended the sensationalism found in many of the New York papers, noting that to be financially successful they had to cater to their readers’ tastes and print what the readers want to read.


56. “Providence Divine Says Magazines are Doing All Investigating.” *Editor & Publisher*, November 19, 1910, 12. Sermon by Rev. C. Caitts Glenn Atkins, who said: “If there is one final word that we would say to the men who make our newspapers, it is that they remember they have no right to plead the giving of something to the people because the people want it. A newspaper is not a mirror; it is a dynamo.”

57. “Preachers Criticize. Prominent Clergymen in Sermons Point Out Evils of Newspapers. New York Minister Finds 39 Per Cent of News Items are ‘Worth While’ – Massachusetts Preacher Classes Newspaper Managers with Ananias and Saphira – Methodist Clergyman from Sweden Admires American Newspapers.” *Editor & Publisher*, December 17, 1910, 3. A roundup of commentary on the daily press included the Rev. Percy Stickney Grant, Episcopal clergyman and rector of the Church of the Ascension of New York City, who delivered a sermon on “Newspapers and Crime.” To make his point, he made use of an unidentified educator’s content analysis of three months worth of stories in one of New York’s leading dailies that classified stories with the following result: “Demoralizing, 2,285 items; unwholesome, 1,684; trivial, 2,100; worth while, 3,900, or 39 per cent.” *Editor & Publisher* then followed the report on Rev. Grant’s sermon with excerpts from an editorial in response by the *New York World*, which held that the 39 percent figure “makes a fairly good case for newspapers. If 39 per cent of their news is ‘worth while’ it is up to the average quality of achievement in most human activities.”

58. “Yellow Journalism Evils.” *Editor & Publisher*, January 21, 1911, 8. Editorial argued yellow journals “encourage their reporters to take liberties with facts and even countenance deliberate lying and misrepresentation.”

59. “The Reader Edits. Every Time He Lays Down a Coin He is Shaping Direction of Journalism, Says Robert Lincoln O’Brien Bromley Lecturer at Yale.” *Editor & Publisher*, February 4, 1911, 7. Robert Lincoln O’Brien, editor of the *Boston Herald*, in a Bromley lecture on journalism at Yale University, said, in part: “It is becoming more the case that to be the most profitable newspapers are shifting from a vehicle of information to a species of entertainment.”


61. “Newspaper Ideals. Philip R. Dillon Contends that They are Higher Than Ever Before. Yellow Journalism not a Product of Our Times – has been Practiced from the Beginning – Editors William Cullen Bryant of the *Evening Post* and W.L. Stone, of the Journal of Commerce, Once Engaged in a Fist Fight.” *Editor & Publisher*, March 11, 1911, 4. Philip R. Dillon, assistant editor of *Editor & Publisher* for several years, in a speech titled “The Ethics of Journalism,” said he welcomed “all this sharp criticism, this demand for ‘reform’ of the newspapers, because it shows that our people are moving onward and upward and grow more and more capable of estimating the truth and value of newspapers, as they grow better able to estimate the value of all instruments of government and progress.”

62. “Clean Journalism: Subject of Simultaneous Address in Ninety-Seven Cities and Towns. Beginning of Wide Movement to be Conducted Under the Auspices of the Christian Science Publishing Co. – News Policy of Clean Journalism Must be Established Through Evolution.” *Editor & Publisher*, April 1, 1911, 1, 3. Excerpts from a speech read the same day in ninety-seven cities and town in New England as part of the Christian Science Publishing Society’s clean journalism campaign.

63. “Young Scores the Yellows. Des Moines Editor Condemns War Correspondents Who Made News.”
Editor & Publisher, April 22, 1911, 5. Lafayette Young, editor of the Des Moines Capital, castigated yellow journalists for corrupting public opinion.


65. “Accuse Newspapers. Committee of the American Medical Association Makes Serious Charges. Declares That the Press is Responsible for Many Suicides – Weak Minded People Imitate Deeds of Others – Would Prohibit the Printing of Details of Criminal News Unless Limited to Separate Page.” Editor & Publisher, July 1, 1911, 1, 3. Article outlined a report of a committee of the American Academy of Medicine which contended that newspapers were in a large part to blame for many suicides.

66. “Wants to be Yellow. Arthur Brisbane Seeks the Top Round in Saffron Journalism.” Editor & Publisher, December 9, 1911, 5. Arthur Brisbane of the New York Journal said: “I am the yellowest journalist in the world.” Went on to defend the sensational newspapers as educators of the masses who might not otherwise read a paper.

67. “Do the Newspapers Make Children Criminals?” Editor & Publisher, December 16, 1911, 6. Editorial countered widespread charge that newspapers corrupted the morals of youth. Instead, it argued: They prevent crime by making evil deeds unpopular and by insisting on the punishment of the guilty.”

68. “Grasty Looks Ahead. Editor of Baltimore Sun Gives South Carolina Editors His Views on the Progressive Procession – Why the Newspapers are Yellow – The Part They Play in Working Out the Country’s Political Destiny.” Editor & Publisher, June 22, 1912, 6. Charles H. Grasty, editor and publisher of the Baltimore Sun, in a speech, said the yellow journals were driven by their readers. “It is useless for a newspaper man to talk about what he wants. There is a great American public which gets what it wants.”


70. “‘Yellow Journalism’ Defined.” Editor & Publisher, January 20, 1917, 14. Arthur Brisbane of the New York Journal, said: “Anything in journalism that is new and successful is yellow journalism, no matter what you or I see fit to call it. A newspaper must be seen, read, understood, and believed. The public must be told what is the matter with it, and it is up to the newspapers to tell them. It is a question of first attracting attention and then saying something that will hold it. Yellow journalism has done this.”

71. “Dr. Butler Attacks Yellow Journalism. Says Columbia Has Suffered from ‘Inflammatory Journalism’ – New York World Replies and Suggests That He Avail Himself of a Post-Graduate Course in the Pulitzer School.” Editor & Publisher, February 17, 1917, 16. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, said in a speech that readers should not believe anything they read in the papers about Columbia.

72. “Dr. Butler on Newspapers.” Editor & Publisher, February 17, 1917, 20. Editorial chastised Butler for his criticism that all newspapers are laden with inaccuracy. “To seek to weaken public confidence in newspapers is not good public service. Dr. Butler would deplore an attack upon educational institutions if it were based on their shortcomings and ignored their virtues.”

73. “Drawing the Line.” Editor & Publisher, May 15, 1919, 32. Editorial said newspapers best fulfilled a public service by being judicious about when they publish the details of salacious private scandals.

74. “Crimson News.” Editor & Publisher, March 19, 1921, 26. Editorial took to task a sudden surge in the nation’s newspapers of a kind of news appealing to the prurient that it called “crimson news.” While it was not its place to tell the managing editor “what is news and what is not,” the journal noted “it is within our sphere to draw the line between filth and news in the interest of public information and education.”

75. “Crime a Small Part of Daily News Prof. Adams Tells New Yorkers: Only a Little Over 4 Per Cent of June Space in Three New York Dailies; Less in Country Press – Blossom New Press Association President.” Editor & Publisher, July 1,
1922, 11. Professor Bristow Adams of the New York State College of Agriculture said his content analysis of New York City newspapers and papers in smaller cities in New York state showed that among 13 topic areas, crime stood seventh in volume.

76. “What is News?” *Editor & Publisher*, July 8, 1922, 24. Editorial page response noted that Adams’ analysis put to the lie that news in most newspapers involved “crime with the sex sensation dominating.”

77. Finty, Jr., Tom. “Crimson News is Losing Caste, but the Press Must Report Crime: Its Reports of Evil have No Effect Upon Advertising Value of Newspapers, Which have a Duty to Keep the Public Informed of Wrongs but Not to Exploit Them for Profit.” *Editor & Publisher*, November 18, 1922, 26. The managing director of A.H. Belp & Co., publishers of three Texas newspapers, rejected notion that crime news led to more crime as “not well grounded” and instead, it was “the duty of newspapers to publish crime news.”

**Independence**

78. “Independent Newspapers.” *Editor & Publisher*, February 21, 1903, 6. No change in modern newspapers when compared to that of the past was more noticeable than “their tendency to break away from party domination and preserve their own independence of opinion,” an editorial noted.

79. “Pot and Kettle.” *Editor & Publisher*, July 15, 1905, 4. *Editor & Publisher* reacted angrily to a “rather sensational tirade” of the newspaper press by *Collier’s Weekly* titled “Criminal Newspaper Alliances with Fraud and Poisons” about newspaper advertisements for the much maligned patent medicines.

80. “Newspaper Independence.” *Editor & Publisher*, December 16, 1905, 4. A series of quotations from newspaper commentaries that “show the trend away from the partisan journal idea to one of broad independence.”

81. “Ethics of the Press.” *Editor & Publisher*, April 14, 1906, 7. G.F. Milton spoke on the subject of “Professional Ethics of the Press.” He argued: “The newspaper should be prepared to suffer loss in advertising and in circulation in order to pursue an editorial policy which, though unpopular, it considers right.”

82. “Lewis of St. Louis.” *Editor & Publisher*, October 3, 1908, 4. E.G. Lewis, president of the Lewis Publishing Co. of St. Louis, to E&P’s question: “What’s the Matter With the Newspapers?” by arguing that the “great metropolitan press of this country had been rapidly and secretly secured in the past few years by Standard Oil and allied interests until to-day the public is with equal rapidity losing all confidence in the sincerity of the press.” The remedy, Lewis argued, was the “building up of a great, fearless public press, owned or controlled directly by the people.”

83. “Reading Notices: Wisest Advertisers Do Not Want the ‘Free’ Kind and Many Newspapers Are Stopping the Practice of Running Them.” *Editor & Publisher*, February 27, 1909, 8. *Editor & Publisher*’s editorial page published excerpts from and commentary on an article in *Profitable Advertising* by John Corliss. It noted that the free reading notice, a “variety of free space graft” that had long weighed on publishers, was dying out – and “rightfully so.”

84. “The Free Reading Notice Is a Pecksniff.” *Editor & Publisher*, February 27, 1909, 8. An accompanying editorial argued that the newspaper that runs reading notices from a merchant may only be harming itself.

85. “On the Relations Between the Editorial and the Business Departments.” *Editor & Publisher*, May 8, 1909, 8. A particularly incisive examination of the editorial department vs. business department conundrum.


87. “Newspapers Honest: Milton A. McRae, of Detroit, Refute Impression that the Newspaper Has Become Purchasable and Is Controlled by the Advertiser.” *Editor & Publisher*, May 15, 1909, 8. Article about speech by Milton A. McRae of the Scripps-McRae League of Newspapers and one of the founders of the American Newspaper Publishers’ Association in which he argued that the nation’s newspapers were not controlled by
advertisers.

88. “Upstairs and Down: Interesting Talk on Subject of Pertinent Interest to the Newspaper Profession,” by James Schermerhorn, Publisher of the Detroit Times.” Editor & Publisher, August 28, 1909, 4. James Schermerhorn, publisher of the Detroit Times, in a speech, explored the concept of “up stairs” – the editorial sanctum unalloyed by commercial influence – and “down stairs” – the counting room that ran the financial side of a newspaper.

89. Sermon on Newspapers: New York State Minister Appeals for Freedom of the Press.” Editor & Publisher, November 20, 1909, 5. The Rev. Edwin A. Rumball, in a sermon titled “The Newspaper as an Ethical Force,” said: “The first, greatest and perhaps only evil of the press is the power and tyranny of commercialism.”

90. “Back to Old Ideals. There Exists Decided Tendency to Reaction, Says Noted Editor.” Editor & Publisher, February 5, 1910, 5. Oswald Garrison Villard, editor of the New York Post, in a speech titled “Ethics of Journalism.” The gist of the speech was that the one force doing more than any other in “sapping the honor and ethics of American newspapers” was the large advertisers ability to influence content by threatening to withdraw large accounts if certain kinds of stories were not suppressed.


92. “Free Press a Myth. Says California Professor in Discussing Work of Newspapers.” Editor & Publisher, February 5, 1910, 8. Professor W. O. Shepard, professor of English at the University of Southern California, said in a speech that he believed there was less of a free press in America than in Russia or China because: “The policies of newspapers with few exceptions are dictated from the business office, and the questions of business expediency will often put a sudden quietus on a most vital policy.”

93. “Muckraking the Newspapers.” Editor & Publisher, March 12, 1910, 8. Editorial page reaction to Edward Alsworth Ross’s criticism in the Atlantic Monthly titled “The Suppression of Important News.” This was the most sensational article in the series in the Atlantic Monthly by the “muckrakers” attacking newspapers, and the charges were “absurd,” the journal’s editorial writer argued.

94. “Press Muckraked. New York Press Characterizes Charge of Atlantic Monthly that American Papers Suppress Important News as Preposterous.” Editor & Publisher, March 12, 1910, 8. Editor & Publisher’s editorial page also included an editorial from the New York Press of March 8 which argued that it was nearly impossible for one paper to suppress the news.

95. “Our Newspapers. Have They been Supplanted as Leaders of Thought by the Magazines? People at large feel that the Newspaper has Ceased to Battle for Their Cause.” Editor & Publisher, March 28, 1910, 6. Journal reprinted an article by Charles Edward Russell that appeared in La Follett’s Magazine. Russell described the house of cards that was the relationship between the newspapers and the interests that controlled them.

96. “Ideal Newspaper: Does Not Exist, Declares Major Hemphill – Newspapers are in Business for Money There is in It – Press a Beggar at the Door of Patronage.” Editor & Publisher, April 23, 1910, 4. Major J.C. Hemphill, editor of the Richmond (Virginia) Times-Dispatch at the First Bromley lecture at Yale University titled “The Public and the Press.” The journal ran a lengthy excerpt from his address, the gist of which was that the hunger for profit and the remnants of partisanship drove most American newspapers.


98. “A Question.” Editor & Publisher, August 20, 1910, 8. Editorial explored the question: “Do newspaper publishers suppress news that would damage their friends or advertising patrons.” Elucidated a recent anecdote from a Western city.

that ‘Big Interests’ Control the Daily Press – Francis J. Heney Also Denounced the Newspapers – Colonel Roosevelt Spoke a Kind Word for the Dailies, but Said the Magazines ‘Have a Greater Influence in Shaping Public Opinion.’” *Editor & Publisher*, January 14, 1911, 1, 4. Bishop Charles D. Williams of Detroit, the Protestant Episcopal bishop of Michigan at a banquet hosted by the Periodical Publishers’ Association of America. Williams told the assembled publishers, including several who oversaw newspapers, that the “daily press is under suspicion in the popular mind” because it was believed they were controlled by the interests. His speech was reported in all the New York dailies as a leading news item, and reports on his speech were sent out across the country through all the telegraphic news associations.

100. “Bishop Williams’ Speech.” *Editor & Publisher*, January 14, 1911, 8. Editorial took the bishop and the Periodical Publishers to task, noting that the criticism voiced by Williams and other speakers at the banquet were nothing new, having been printed ad nauseum in the magazines.

101. “The Mayor and the Governor Differ About Newspapers.” *Editor & Publisher*, January 21, 1911, 8. In the wake of the brouhaha surrounding the bishop’s speech, an editorial reported the comments of Governor John A. Dix of New York, who noted that during a recent campaign “never once was I consciously misrepresented by any newspaper.”

102. “Battling for the Magazines.” *Editor & Publisher*, February 18, 1911, 8. Another editorial rejoinder to Williams’ speech described the people who spoke as “incomplete experts who flattered the magazines and flouted the newspaper press.”

103. “Should Not Control. James F. Hudson, of the Pittsburgh Dispatch, Gives Three Reasons Why Advertisers Should Not be Allowed to Influence Editorial Policy – Not Only Injures the Newspaper, but the Advertiser as Well.” *Editor & Publisher*, March 12, 1911, 7. James F. Hudson, associate editor of the *Pittsburgh Dispatch*, said in a speech to journalism class: “The zenith of prosperity for a paper which I formerly knew was marked when it told the largest advertiser that if it was not satisfied to advertise in accordance with the rules of the paper it could stop.”

104. “Press has Lost Prestige. William J. Bryan Tells Contemporary Club of Philadelphia.” *Editor & Publisher*, March 18, 1911, 7. William Jennings Bryan discussed the “Influence of the Modern Newspaper” in which he said: “The greatest menace to our country to-day is the pollution of the editorial and news columns by interests that are practicing grand larceny on the people. Many of our great newspapers are owned by interests which have their hands in the pockets of the people and use the papers to chloroform the readers.”

105. “Editorial Comment.” *Editor & Publisher*, May 20, 1911, 12. Editorial pointed to an essay by Don C. Seitz on “The Honor of the Press” in Harper’s Weekly as “worth reading by every newspaper man in the country” because Seitz “shows how silly and unfounded is the charge so often made that the great newspapers are controlled by ‘interests.’ No paper can long be under the dominance of any ‘interest’ without the public discovers [sic] the fact, and when it does the paper begins to die.”

106. “‘The Goods We Sell.’ The Business of a Newspaper is Made Upstairs in the Editorial Rooms – Advertising will Come to a Newspaper Established in the Family Circle – The Deadly Menace to Independent Journalism.” *Editor & Publisher*, August 5, 1911, 3. Excerpts from a paper by Chas H. Grady, publisher of the *Baltimore Sun*, in which he said: “The greatest problem that confronts the daily newspaper is how to maintain the pleasant relations that should and do exist between the ordinary business enterprise and its patrons on the one hand and on the other to eliminate this relationship entirely where it concerns the largest question of the performance of the public functions which belong to journalism.”

107. “Arraigns the Press. Editor of Boston Common Pours Hot Shot into Editorial Ranks. Mr. Richard Gives Instances Showing that Important News is Sometimes Ignored Because It Might Hurt the Newspaper’s Advertising – Declares There Can be No Freedom Until Circulation Makes Bulk of Income.” *Editor & Publisher*, November 11, 1911, 1, 10. Livy S. Richard, editor of the *Boston Common* in a speech before the First National Conference of Social Center Development at the University of Wisconsin on “What the Newspapers Can’t Do.” He offered several anecdotes as evidence that the nation’s commercial newspaper press had sold “their independence to business interests.”

Eliminating a Newspaper Trust and Endowed Newspapers – Takes a Whack at the Yellow Press.” Editor & Publisher, December 30, 1911, 6.

Hamilton Holt, editor of The Independent, in a lecture titled “Commercialism and Journalism”, in which he suggested four ways of quickly bringing the age of commercialism to an end.


110. “Stone Defends Press. Kansas Editors Listen to a Spirited and Impressive Address at Lawrence. General Manager of the Associated Press Answers Some of the Charges Brought Against It – Declares that Neither Large Interests Nor Advertisers Control the Newspapers – Not Commercialized.” Editor & Publisher, April 13, 1912, 1, 4. Melville E. Stone, general manager of the Associated Press, said in a speech: “While the last thing in the world which I proposed to do is to claim perfection for the American newspaper, yet I do not think that the charge that as a body the newspaper editors in this country are trying to mislead the electorate, or that they are engaged in any sinister design, is true.”


112. “Press Freedom is Impossible: Declares Livy S. Richard, Editor of the Boston Common, Because the Conditions of Making Money Require That the American Newspaper Publisher Must Chloroform His Soul.” Editor & Publisher, September 7, 1912, 21. Richard wrote that it was not the “special depravity of publishers, but the cold logic of commercial necessity which brings into being the fact that in most of the great battles against special privilege the big newspapers are found openly or stealthily lined up on the side of privilege.”

113. “Conscience an Asset. Its Importance Emphasized by Editor Stovall, of Tampa – Sound Advice to Florida Publishers – Need of Backbone.” Editor & Publisher, July 12, 1913, 68. W.F. Stovall, editor of the Tampa Tribune, in a speech titled “Conscience of the Newspaper Man,” said the charges the press is controlled by “the interests” are a “cruel libel.”


115. “Kansas Editors Meet.” Editor & Publisher, May 16, 1914, 1006. E.A. Ross of the University of Wisconsin presented a paper advocating that newspapers be endowed just as colleges and universities were.


117. Merrill, Bradford. “How Value, Volume and Appreciation of News Have Developed.” Editor & Publisher, June 24, 1916. Bradford Merrill, of the New York American, said, in a speech, that: “There has never been a time in my lifetime when the influence of the business office was less dominant in the editorial rooms than it is to-day.”

118. “Newspapers do Not Sell ‘Protection’ to Advertisers.” Editor & Publisher, September 9, 1916, 16. In response to a letter from Carl Hunt, editor of Associated Advertising, who disagreed with Editor & Publisher’s position that few newspapers’ news policy was controlled by the counting room, the journal’s editorial page responded that much had changed in the thirty years since Hunt last worked for a newspaper.

119. “The Suppression of News.” Editor & Publisher, March 13, 1917, 14. Editorial that said a newspaper that would suppress news because of
advertiser influence would “betray its trust, violate the obligations to society which it solemnly assumed on the day of its birth, and would thereby forfeit its place as the guardian of public interests, and would become a menace, rather than a factor of useful service, to its community.”

120. “To Him Who Demands: ‘Keep This Out of Your Newspaper’: This Little Story Ought to Reach Those Thoughtless Persons, Often Advertisers, Who Rush to Newspaper Offices to Suppress News About Friends.” Editor & Publisher, January 5, 1918, 31. An anecdote about how an editor came to the conclusion that suppressing news about influential persons was bad newspaper practice.

121. “Is Commercialism Smothering Journalistic Ideals?” Editor & Publisher, April 23, 1921, 9, 44. Editorial returned to the past two decades’ iterations of the questions of sensationalism and how far an editor should go to acquire and maintain the circulation to sustain his newspaper.

122. “Is Trend of Today’s Newspapers Away from Journalistic Ideals? Frank P. Glass Charges Business Office Organizations Have been Perfected at Expense of Editorial Public Service in Past Quarter Century.” Editor & Publisher, July 2, 1921, 13. Frank P. Glass, former editor of the Birmingham News and the Montgomery Advertiser and past president of the American Newspaper Publishers’ Association, in a speech during Journalism Week at the University of Missouri, described the delicate balance between the editorial side and the business office, between the “upstairs and downstairs.”

Impartiality

123. Bunting, W.M. “Party Newspapers.” Editor & Publisher, October 4, 1902, 4. Took to task party newspapers that slavishly adhered to a party line even if it meant electing inept leaders or “scoundrels.”

124. “Deciding Newspaper’s Policy.” Editor & Publisher, January 24, 1903, 4. Summary of a Jackson (Mississippi) News editorial criticizing newspapers connected to political organizations.

125. “The Attitude of Detachment.” Editor & Publisher, October 21, 1905, 4. Editorial argued a newspaper proprietor should “assume an attitude of detachment” and “consider the columns of his newspaper as a sort of sacred place where his own petty jealousies will not be allowed to intrude.”

126. “Newspaper Not Partisan. Not a Biased Publication in New York, Says Don C. Seitz.” Editor & Publisher, March 30, 1911, 7. Don C. Seitz, business manager of the New York World, said, in a speech, that: “There is not a partisan newspaper in New York to-day nor is there one that attempts to present biased news.”

127. “Print All the News.” Editor & Publisher, September 21, 1912, 10. Editorial argued readers were rejecting partisan newspapers that did not print all the news. Certainly, a paper could be partisan, but it must also be fair.

128. “When Papers Should be Non-Partisan.” Editor & Publisher, November 9, 1912, 12. Editorial page printed a note to readers from Henry F. Harris of the Richmond (Michigan) Review that bolstered the journal’s view of partisanship in the modern newspaper. The note was in reply to complaints criticizing the Review for “carrying water on both shoulders” as regarded politics.

129. Bliven, Bruce Ormsby. “Newspapers from the Reader’s Standpoint.” Editor & Publisher, July 5, 1916, 5, 22. Bruce Ormsby Bliven, head of the Department of Journalism at the University of Southern California, noted that in a survey of 60 readers, not one of them mentioned political partisanship as the reason they subscribed to the particular paper they did.

130. “Defines ‘Party Press’: Scott C. Bone Shows Distinction Between the ‘Organ’ and the Party Newspaper.” Editor & Publisher, March 24, 1917, 30. Scott C. Bone, editor of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, in a speech titled “Party Press,” argued there was a vast difference between the “party organ” and the “party newspaper,” the former was to be abhorred while the other deserved respect.

Freedom of the press

131. “Concerning Muzzlers.” Editor & Publisher, May 19, 1906, 4. In 1906 the daily papers in St. Paul Minnesota were taken to court for violating a state law banning publication of news about a hanging. “If the law makers can take things in their own hands to that extent,” an editorial argued, “it may well be asked what departments of government administration are safe from abuse by careless officials who may hide securely under the cloak of a press muzzler.”

Editor & Publisher, December 18, 1909, 3. Summary of a Washington Post story about the Army drafting a bill “authorizing the President in time of war to issue a proclamation forbidding the publication of news relating to the armed forces of the government, or the means and measures by which the war is to be prosecuted.”


134. Munro, Frank. “Journalistic Reform. How It May Be Accomplished Through the Adoption of a Simple Plan.” Editor & Publisher, December 23, 1911, 11. Munro argued for establishing a licensing system in which journalists would have to pass an examination to be able to practice their profession.

135. “Licenses for Newspaper Men.” Editor & Publisher, May 4, 1912, 11. Editorial regarding the Pennsylvania State Editorial Association’s plan to propose a law to the Legislature requiring journalists to be licensed. Editor & Publisher, in a half-hearted endorsement of the plan, said it “may be a good thing; it certainly can do no harm.”

136. “Would Make a Heap of Trouble.” Editor & Publisher, August 3, 1912, 1. A proposed anti-fight law in Los Angeles would have made everyone connected with a prize fight – including the reporters who wrote about it – guilty of a felony.

137. “Newspapers Will Be Licensed.” Editor & Publisher, August 3, 1912, 8. Editorial page came out in favor of licensing newspapers. It was too easy, the journal argued, for anyone to start a newspaper and attack people’s reputations.


139. “An Inquisition for Newspapers.” Editor & Publisher, August 2, 1913, 130. In a rider to the Post Office Appropriations bill of August 1912, Congress denied “the privileges of the mail” to newspapers that failed to publish twice a year a sworn statement detailing its internal organization and financial situation.


144. “Censorship Octopus. It Spreads Its Tentacles All Over the World – Strong Protest Against National Ban on Certain Cables Sent from the United States – Communication is Badly Crippled by Sharp Espionage All Over Europe.” Editor & Publisher, August 22, 1914, 187.


146. “Gen. Funston Condemns Lying Correspondents: Newspaper Men Hereafter Found Guilty of Sending Out Untruthful Dispatches Will be Ordered from Camp – Malicious and Shameless Falsifying is Charged by Military Authorities.” Editor & Publisher, August 5, 1916, 4. Gen. Frederick Funston sent a telegram to the War Department as notice of his plan to oust reporters from the National Guard camps along the Mexican border who write false accounts – he described the situation as a “carnival of lying” – about camp conditions.

147. Editor & Publisher, August 5, 1916, 12.
Untitled editorial response that noted that “Gen. Funston has evidently lost his sense of what is news, and would have the correspondents ignore all but the pleasant features of camp life.”


150. “The Service of the Press.” Editor & Publisher, February 10, 1917, 20. After President Wilson announced the United States had severed diplomatic relations with Germany, Editor & Publisher argued that the president should look “no further than the editorial pages of the newspapers for evidence of the full approval of the American people of the momentous step taken last Saturday.” And in a harbinger of possible press restrictions to come with the advent of the war, the journal argued its case for a free and unfettered press, even in times of war.

151. “Congress and the Constitution.” Editor & Publisher, February 10, 1917, 22. A condemnation of “hostile and menacing” laws and proposed laws that would infringe upon the First Amendment, which the writer noted, had not been repealed.


153. Editor & Publisher, March 10, 1917, 14. Untitled editorial argued that “If war should come, and with it the inevitable news censorship, our Government should see to it that such a censorship shall be sane and sensible, and not of the sorry kind which hampered Great Britain for the first year of the European war.”


155. Pepper, George Wharton. “Voluntary Censorship of News is Essential: Otherwise, Says George Wharton Pepper, of the National Committee of Patriotic Defence Societies, People are Lulled into False Sense of Security as to Preparedness.” Editor & Publisher, March 17, 1917, 27.

156. “Congress to Provide Adequate Censorship: Existing Laws do Not Prevent Publication of News Which Might Embarrass Administration, Editorial Courtesy being the Only Safeguard – Doubt as to Presidential Power.” Editor & Publisher, March 17, 1917, 27.

157. “For a Sensible Censorship.” Editor & Publisher, March 24, 1917, 20. An editorial that calls for only those restrictions that are required by the military interests. They should not reflect the viewpoints of the military.

158. “Editors, Though Ignored by Government will Observe Censorship Regulations: Only One Rule, Known as Number Six and Proposed by Secretary Lansing, is Meeting with Severe Criticism – Representative Newspaper Men May be Called into Conference with Federal Authorities in April – Editor and Publisher’s Suggestion that Journalist be Chief Censor is Favorably Commented on in Washington.” Editor & Publisher, March 31, 1917, 6.

159. “Law Clearly Defines Freedom of the Press: Governor Edge Signs Measure Which Conforms to Original Framing of Constitutional Statute Respecting Rights of Newspapers in New Jersey – Its Terms.” Editor & Publisher, March 31, 1917, 26. Editor & Publisher was quick to note when the governor of New Jersey signed a law expanding the rights of the press to criticize the courts in that state. “In other words, newspaper criticism of judges, not obstructing the administration of justice, can no longer be construed as contempt of court,” the journal noted.


161. “Voluntary Censorship.” Editor & Publisher, April 7, 1917, 22. Outlines of a proposed
censorship law that would go into effect if war was declared and that the press was meanwhile asked to voluntarily submit to contained several regulations that an editorial found fault with.

162. “The Newspaper Business in War-Time.” Editor & Publisher, April 7, 1917, 22. An editorial that raised the common theme of the press as a “third arm” of defense. Noted the press’s part in stimulating volunteers for the military.

163. “Newspaper Man Should Direct Censorship: United States May Avoid Repeating Disastrous Early Blunders of European Censorship by Placing Trained Journalist at Head of Bureau, with Full Cooperation of Efficient Army and Navy Officers – Patriotic Service of Newspapers Must Not Be Hampered Through Needless Restrictions.” Editor & Publisher, April 14, 1917, 5, 6.

164. Censorship.” Editor & Publisher, April 14, 1917, 32. Editorial argued that “under a strict construction of the Constitution, any censorship of the press in the United States, even in war-time, is illegal.”


166. “The Might of the Printed Word.” Editor & Publisher, April 21, 1917, 28. In advance of a joint meeting of the Associated Press and the American Publishers Association, an editorial went on to re-emphasize the press was the nation’s “third arm of our defence” and that it must play its part “with valor, loyalty and unmatched public service.”

167. “The Assault on Press Freedom.” Editor & Publisher, April 21, 1917, 28. Editorial notes that Senator Borah railed against press restrictions. During a debate, the journal noted, Borah pointed out that “Some senators seem to think that the Constitution is suspended in time of war. But that is absurd.”

168. “Only a Free Press Can ‘Make the World Safe for Democracy.’” Editor & Publisher, April 28, 1917, 28. Editorial, which opposed censorship law, argued that: “In fighting to ‘make the world safe for democracy’ we must make our country safe for democracy – first.”


171. “The First Battle With Autocracy.” Editor & Publisher, May 5, 1917, 16. After the more egregious parts of a proposed censorship law died in Congress, Editor & Publisher described the confrontation as the “first battle with autocracy,” a vestigial remnant of a “predilection toward tyranny” that exists even within a democracy that needs only a “pretence upon which to set aside the principles of free institutions and to replace them with the discarded dogmas and policies of systems in which might makes right and the will of the ruler is the law of the people.”

172. “Pomeroy Burton’s Censorship Ideas: Manager of Lord Northcliffe’s Newspapers Believe that the People Should be Kept Informed on All Phases of the War, Thus Avoiding the Mistakes England Made at the Outset.” Editor & Publisher, May 5, 1917, 20.


175. “No Autocratic Power Should be Given to a Good President Which Would be Refused to a Bad President.” Editor & Publisher, May 26, 1917, 12. Editorial that worried that President Wilson was heeding the urgings of “certain reactionary advisers” to enact a censorship law, which was a threat to the ideals of democracy.

176. “Creel Formulates Press Censorship Rules: Asks That the ‘Periodical Press’ of the United States Abide by Regulation Now Fully Outlined, Many of Which Are Along the Line of the
Voluntary Censorship the Daily Papers Have been Following Since the Declaration of War with Germany.” *Editor & Publisher*, June 2, 1917, 9-10.

177. “For the Protection of the Nation.” *Editor & Publisher*, June 2, 1917, 18. Editorial said the president had failed to make clear to the public “that the interests of the nation will be best served through enacting a law which the Constitution expressly forbids Congress to enact.”

178. “All Editors on Guard!” *Editor & Publisher*, June 23, 1917, 16. Editorial urged all editors that a free press was not “a menace to the interests of a nation at war.”

179. Schreiner, George A. “Censorship is Necessary, But Censors Muddle News of a Non-Military Nature: American Correspondent Who has been on All the European Battle Fronts, Tells Some of His Experiences with Military Censors – How They Contradict Themselves and Extend Their Efforts to Suppressing News Having No Military Value.” *Editor & Publisher*, June 23, 1917, 6, 26.


181. “When Judge Story Nodded.” *Editor & Publisher*, July 21, 1917, 1, 20. Editorial in response to Senator Walsh’s argument, maintained that no one was arguing that a free press right took precedent over any other right – “but that all other rights of society are endangered, and eventually disregarded, in a State where a free press does not exist.”


183. “Taxation Intended as Newspaper Punishment: Edgar P. Piper, Editor of Portland Oregonian, Declares Congress is Singling Out Newspapers Because of Newspaper Condemnation of Congressional Indifference.” *Editor & Publisher*, August 18, 1917, 6. Edgar P. Piper castigated hints that Congress would single out newspapers for special taxation as a way of punishing those newspapers and magazines some members disagreed with as regarded the war.


187. Burleson, A.S. “Postmaster General Explains to Editor Purpose and Operation of New Law: Hon. A.S. Burleson, in a Special Message to Newspaper Makers, Prepared for The Editor and Publisher, Outlines Fully and Clearly Line He will Follow in Dealing with Disloyal and Seditious Publications – No Loyal Newspaper has Anything to Fear – No Curb on Legitimate Discussion or Criticism.” *Editor & Publisher*, October 6, 1917, 6, 26.

188. “The Freedom of the Press.” *Editor & Publisher*, October 6, 1917, 20. Editorial seemed to attempt to make the best of Section 3 of the Espionage Act, which allowed the postmaster-general to suppress seditious publications – giving an unelected official the power to be both “accuser and judge in one.” In this instance – possibly because it was now fait accompli – *E&P* was uncharacteristically equivocal in its enumeration of the new law. “That the end sought is patriotic and admirable does not admit of discussion. That the method devised for securing that end is the best possible one will not be conceded by those who believe in conducting a democratic government on democratic principles.”

189. “A Free and Loyal Press.” *Editor & Publisher*, October 27, 1917, 20. Editorial said, in part, that the government had rightly stopped the “preaching of sedition” while at the same time withholding restrictions on “the work of a loyal press.”

190. “The Case of the Call.” *Editor & Publisher*, October 27, 1917, 20. Editorial said, in part, that the government had rightly stopped the “preaching of sedition” while at the same time withholding restrictions on “the work of a loyal press.”
November 17, 1917, 20. A short article on editorial page about the New York Call, a Socialist daily surviving though it had been denied its second-class postage rates. Editorial writer was confused why if the government thought it was not a fit publication for the lower postage rate, then why was it allowed to continue its purported harm at the higher rate?

191. “Creel Tells Editors About War News: In Address to Indiana Newspaper Men He Outlines Work of Bureau and Asks that Newspapers Discipline Violators of Voluntary Censorship.” Editor & Publisher, December 15, 1917, 10.

192. “Consistent Editors Rare, Slemp: Virginia Representative Would Bar from Mails Those Newspaper Failing to Maintain Same Editorial Policy for Thirty Days.” Editor & Publisher, January 26, 1918, 26. Congressman introduced two resolutions that would have denied second-class mailing privileges to newspapers that did not have “a consistent editorial policy for thirty consecutive days.” Another resolution called for government approval before running any interpretation of a presidential utterance.


197. “Freedom of Criticism.” Editor & Publisher, May 4, 1918, 24. Editorial lauded former Supreme Court Justice Charles Evans Hughes for his comments to the ANPA on press freedom, the gist of which was that those charged with doing the people’s business could not be immune from criticism.

198. “Creel Answers Some Pointed Queries: Tells How He Views the Triangular Fight Between Roosevelt, Burleson, and Hearst – is not a Censor, but a Protagonist of Free Speech.” Editor & Publisher, May 18, 1918, 32. Article with excerpts from an audience questioning George Creel about Hearst, suppression of newspapers, and Theodore Roosevelt’s criticism of the government.

199. “Legal Action Comment Curbed by Court: U.S. Supreme Justices Reiterate Old Established Legal Finding that Newspapers Must not Criticise Cases Pending before Judicial Bodies – Another Case in New Mexico.” Editor & Publisher, June 15, 1918, 14, 33. Lengthy article explored background behind both cases and how they were related.

200. “Newspapers and the Courts.” Editor & Publisher, June 22, 1918, 22. Explored the debate over the two cases above and urged Congress to amend the controlling law that allowed for court-ordered restraint.

201. “Sees Press Freedom Under Menace: Oswald G. Villard Defends Rights to Criticise Public Men and Policies – Cites President’s Action in Case of The Nation as Wise and Consistent.” Editor & Publisher, September 28, 1918, 26. Villard, who was opposed to the war, protested the government’s censorship of an issue of his magazine and allegations that he was pro-German. Lauded President Wilson’s overruling of the Post Office Department.

202. “Passing of Censorship.” Editor & Publisher, November 23, 1918, 34. Editorial noted that except for vague references to “An Atlantic Port,” the end of voluntary censorship would have little effect on the editorial policy and practice of newspapers because “we have never departed very far from them during the great crisis.” Looked back and rhetorically walked a fine line between protecting freedom of speech and acts of sedition that required punishment. Complimentary to George Creel and his efforts.

203. “Defining ‘Freedom of the Press.’” Editor & Publisher, February 1, 1919, 28. An editorial discussing arguments in the Supreme Court regarding the Debs case about how freedom of the
press was defined revealed the journal’s support for censorship in certain contexts.

204. “Borah Denounces Features of Espionage Law in Hot Senate Debate: Idaho Senator Loses Fight for Repeal of Offending Sections after Charging that the Operation of the Law has Resulted in Muzzling the Press – Time has Come, He Urges, for Full and Free Discussion of All Problems, National or International, Without Restraint Imposed by Star-Chamber Methods.” Editor & Publisher, February 15, 1919, 9. U.S. Senator William E. Borah, in a harsh indictment of the newspaper press, said: “I think the newspapers are having a pretty difficult time, as are public men, to discriminate between propaganda and genuine news.” The senator from Idaho also condemned the fact that the postmaster-general’s power of censorship over newspapers remained.

205. “Press Freedom.” Editor & Publisher, February 15, 1919, 9. An editorial noted that Senator Borah was one of only ten senators to vote to repeal the postmaster-general’s power of censorship. E&P argued that it was “absurd to argue that the need still exists for a special club of control over newspapers. It is, on the other hand, highly important that the utmost freedom of discussion be permitted. The outstanding problems of the nation – and of the world – in these days are political, sociological, and economic, not military.”

206. “A Judge Reverses Himself.” Editor & Publisher, June 5, 1919, 32. The editorial page noted that Judge Chester A. Fowler of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, saw the light and reversed an order barring the circulation in the county of newspapers containing any story about a murder case until after the jury had been selected.

207. “Band Escorts Editor Leech to Jail: Begins Ten Days’ Sentence for Contempt of Court in Unusual Legal Case – Will be Mass Meeting of Citizens on His Release.” Editor & Publisher, August 7, 1919, 11. On August 4, 1919, Edward T. Leech, editor of the Memphis (Tennessee) Press, paraded down the streets of town led by a band and accompanied by scores of businessmen and entered the Shelby County Jail to serve a ten-day sentence for contempt of Chancellor Israel Pete’s court. Leech had been cited for contempt for an editorial he wrote during a political campaign the previous year.

208. Faust, Paul E. “Urges that Publishers Oppose License Bills in Congress: Paul E. Faust Declares Extension to the Press of the Principle of Government Control Proposed in Kenyon and Kendrick Measures Would be ‘Perfect Muzzle.’” Editor & Publisher, August 21, 1919, 8, 26. Faust was concerned that effort by the government to license and oversee the food industry could well expand to cover the press.

209. Barry, Robert T. “Palmer Asks Congress for Power to Control Anarchist Press: Nearly 400 Newspapers Openly Preaching Overthrow of Government, Attorney General Says – New Law Required.” Editor & Publisher, November 20, 1919, 33. Editor & Publisher noted that Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer had asked Congress to enact a new law that would have allowed him to “deal more effectively with anarchistic and revolutionary agitators” in America. The journal’s correspondent noted that this proposed law to censor “red” publications “is expected to arouse once again the issue of the ‘freedom of the press.’”

210. “No Quarter for Anarchy.” Editor & Publisher, November 27, 1919, 24. Editor & Publisher explicitly targeted what U.S. Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer had described as “327 radical newspapers now published in the United States, many of them openly advocating the overthrow of the Government.” In a rationale for ignoring the First Amendment that walked a fine line between press freedoms and press restrictions, that echoed its stance during the war, and that implicitly enumerated the underpinnings of the U.S. Supreme Court’s “clear and present danger” test, E&P insisted that the government should not wait for Congress to enact press restrictions before it acted to put a stop “to the preaching of anarchy and rebellion, through newspapers or by word of mouth.”

211. Barry, Robert T. “Censorship Coming Up Before Congress: Laws to Control ‘Red’ Press to Be Watched for ‘Jokers’ that Might Affect All Newspapers.” Editor & Publisher, January 1, 1920, 8. The writer noted the Senate would begin in the next week to consider “red” legislation proposed by Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer and by Senator Sterling of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

212. Barry, Robert T. “’Feeling’ in Congress Against Big Papers: Provincials in Congress Believe It is Good Policy to Deride Those that Differ with Them Politically.” Editor & Publisher, March 6, 1920, 33. E&P Washington correspondent noted “that a genuine feeling of hostility toward
newspaper publishers” was developing in Congress.

213. “Defends Free Speech Rights of People: ‘If Men Were Allowed to Speak Only Wisely, Silence Would Brood Upon Earth,’ Says Frank Cobb.” **Editor & Publisher**, April 10, 1920, 38. New York World editor Frank I. Cobb argued that: “Most of the perils lie in repression. There is likely to be far more danger in the limitations than in the free speech itself, however foolish and intemperate the speech may be.”

214. “Free Speech.” **Editor & Publisher**, April 10, 1920, 28. Editorial affirmation of Cobb’s stance on the perils to free speech and that after five years of suppression, it was time to return to the past.

215. “A Curb on Public Intelligence.” **Editor & Publisher**, October 9, 1920, 34. Editorial complained of the expulsion of two reporters who were “confessed radicals” from State Department press conferences as “an affront to the press as a whole, rather than a punishment of radicalism in particular.” Editorial goes on to complain of the agency’s daily press conferences as the only means of knowing what the government was doing in foreign affairs since there was a near total ban on subordinates talking to the press.

216. A New Kind of Censorship.” **Editor & Publisher**, March 19, 1921, 26. Editorial noted the Postal Service had ordered that any item appearing in the reading columns of a second-class publication that “tends to advance the interest of an advertiser” would be considered advertising. This would mean, **Editor & Publisher** argued, that a review of a book or play would be considered advertising. “This is not regulation, it is emasculation.”

217. “Press Bands to Fight P.O. Censorship: ‘Committed for Free Press in America’ Formed by Leading Editors to Aid New York Call’s Case in Supreme Court.” **Editor & Publisher**, September 17, 1921, 24. Editors from several prominent newspapers established a “Committee for Free Press in America” and launched a campaign to attract the support of other newspapers in its efforts to persuade the U.S. Supreme Court to restore the mailing privileges of the New York Call taken away by the postmaster general.

218. “Newspapers Cannot be Silenced.” **Editor & Publisher**, September 24, 1921, 54. After Chicago sued both the Tribune and the Daily News for stories that revealed “mishandling, incompetency and wastefulness,” **Editor & Publisher** argued newspapers because their watchdog role was at the core of democracy.

219. Blanchard, Frank Leroy. “U.S. Supreme Court Made New Law in Elwell Contempt Case: Overthrows Theory that Reporter’s News Sources are Privilegued, Which has been Upheld by Lower Courts Actively and by Inference.” **Editor & Publisher**, November 5, 1921, 15.

220. “Privileged News and the Profession.” **Editor & Publisher**, November 5, 1921, 34. Editorial explored the history of reporter privilege up to the above decision and called for campaign to establish a federal law to protect reporters and their sources. Court decision highlighted need for the formation of an organization of “news and editorial men” that could act nationally, editorial argued.


222. “Free Speech – By Default.” **Editor & Publisher**, December 23, 1922, 26. In 1922, renowned Kansas editor William Allen White faced charges for violating the Kansas Industrial Court Law after he hung a poster in the window of his Emporia Gazette that expressed “49 per cent sympathy” for striking railway workers. Both White and **Editor & Publisher** were chagrined when the charges were dropped. An editorial complained that: “The case drifted and now it has been dropped in a manner that leaves the way open to invoke the same tactics again in the next emergency.”

223. “Oklahoma Press Bill is Doomed: Would Put Control of News and Editorial Columns Under Political Supervision – Is Opposed by Newspaper Men.” **Editor & Publisher**, March 17, 1923, 18. Proposed law would have given the governor control of that state’s newspapers by giving him the power to prevent journalists from working on any Oklahoma newspaper.

**Foreign-language press**


225. “Encourage the Use of English.” **Editor & Publisher**, February 19, 1916, 1118. An editorial
that supported a proposal that called for encouraging foreign-language newspapers to print at least part of their editions “in the language of the United States.” Discussion of the need to Americanize the nation’s immigrant population.


227. “Editor Brand Defends German Tongue Press: Answers Mr. Harris’s Questions Published in This Paper and Declares That German-American Loyalty to the United States Yields to No One – But He Would Instil German Ideas.” Editor & Publisher, March 11, 1916, 1099, 1220. Response to criticism of foreign-language press by Horace L. Brand, which the journal described as “the leading publisher of German language newspapers in the West.”


229. “Editors of German Language Newspapers Strongly Resent Charges of Disloyalty: Contend That to be Compelled to Print in English Would Mean Business Disaster – Have Supported President in War Policies and Stand for the United States Whether ‘Right or Wrong’ – Ascribe Attacks to Intolerance and Prejudice.” Editor & Publisher, August 25, 1917, 10, 24.


231. “A Dangerous Precedent.” Editor & Publisher, September 22, 1917, 20. Editorial opposed a proposed law to require licensing of foreign language papers as a “drastic method of prevention of the abuse of free speech.”

232. “German-Language Newspapers Face Growing Resentment of American People: Movement for Their Suppression Gains Nation-Wide Scope and Force – Some are Yielding to Pressure of Public Sentiment, While Others Contend that They Render Indispensable Service to the Government – Brooklyn Freie Press Suspends ‘for Patriotic Reason.”’ Editor & Publisher, May 11 1918, 11.

233. “German-Language Newspapers are Passing.” Editor & Publisher, May 11 1918, 24. Editorial argued the fact that William Randolph Hearst shut down a German-language paper “in the interest of national unity” was a forceful example of why the other such papers should close.

234. “War Started on the German Press: National Security League has Started Campaign for Abolition of All German Language Papers – will Appeal to General Public.” Editor & Publisher, June 15, 1918, 28.

235. “Ramely Waives Hearing as Coil of U.S. Grows Tighter: Western Paper may be Seized as German-Owned – Thirteen Others Suspected – Gigantic Scheme to Debauch American Press Fails Dismally.” Editor & Publisher, July 20, 1918, 7.

236. “The Language of the Hun.” Editor & Publisher, August 3, 1918, 30. Editorial rejected allowing German-language newspapers from slowly eliminating German and replacing it with English over time. “Is it not generally conceded that the chief end served through the publication in this country of German-language newspapers is the preservation and fostering here of that language, with its ideals?”

237. “Would Curb Foreign Language Press: Strong Sentiment in Senate and House for Complete Abolishment of Periodicals Not Printed in English – Four Bills are Introduced.” Editor & Publisher, August 14, 1919, 44. Article noted the Senate was convinced that the problem with assimilating immigrants stemmed from “the stubborn determination of alien periodicals to fight to the last ditch the Americanization process.”


239. “Stop Publication of German Language Newspapers in the United States.” Editor & Publisher, April 20, 1920, 34. “Is their any valid reason why the publication of German-language newspapers should be permitted in the United States under present war conditions?”
explaining why the answer was no.

240. “German Papers Disappearing: In Two Weeks Nearly a Dozen Teuton Newspapers in This Country Suspend.” *Editor & Publisher*, November 11 1922, 30. The journal reported that according to a representative of the Friends of German Democracy, the “growing mortality” among German-language papers stemmed from German-Americans “aligning themselves with the ideals and war aims of the United States.”

Press agents & propaganda

241. “News Fakirs.” *Editor & Publisher*, November 21, 1908, 4. Editorial explored the problems publishers confronted in knowing what was news and what was artifice foisted on newspapers by the “press agent.”


243. “War Material.” *Editor & Publisher*, June 5, 1915, 1126. Other references on the editorial page seemed to reflect a kind of public paranoia about the war and the machinations of the combatants inside the borders of the United States. It was in June 1915 that an early – but subtle reference – to propaganda appeared on the editorial page. “We don’t believe,” E&P said, “the report that some of the German newspaper offices in this city are equipped with combination type-setting and cartridge-making machines. Next thing some one will be springing a story that they are making cannons in roller-casting machines. The only war material printing paraphernalia in manufacturing is found on the editorial pages.”

244. “Creel is Bitterly Assailed in Senate: Senator Penrose, Demanding That Investigation be Made of Bureau of Public Information, Calls It One of ‘Misinformation’ – No Action Taken After Long Debate.” *Editor & Publisher*, July 28, 1917, 16. Article on debate about accuracy of reports regarding submarine attacks on transports carrying American troops to France.


246. “Newspapers of Country are Flooded with Publicity Copy from Washington: Editors and Managing Editors Tell How Such Matter Fares in Their Offices and How System in Vogue may be Improved – Need is for Snappy, Human-Interest Stories, Prepared in Newspaper Style – Work Should be Centralized and Great Waste of Effort and White Paper Avoided.” *Editor & Publisher*, March 16, 1918, 7, 29. Another roundup of comments by editors from across the country.


248. “Attacks Creel Committee: Should be Labelled ‘Misinformation,’ Congressman Treadway Says.” *Editor & Publisher*, April 6, 1918, 5. Rep. Allen T. Treadway said, in part: “The misinformation that the public is receiving through the so-called Committee on Public Information will fill a very large volume, not only of printed matter, but of photographs.”


250. “The Government’s Press Matter.” *Editor & Publisher*, April 16, 1918, 22. Referring to a symposium of editors within the pages of the journal about the quantity and quality pouring out from government press bureaus, an editorial noted “(t)here is general agreement that the present flood of material going to the newspapers represents much wasted effort and a waste of good white
Furthering Operation of Selective System – Have
paper. If the Government’s war activities are to be interpreted to the people through the news columns the work must be done in a better way than at present. The spark of life must be put into the copy. Only capable, practical news writers know how to do this.”


253. “Government Publicity.” Editor & Publisher, June 15, 1918, 22. An editorial noted that: “Editors contend that 90 per cent of the publicity copy sent out reaches the waste basket” because it lacks “news value.”

254. “For Wiser Policies.” Editor & Publisher, July 13, 1918, 34. Editorial defended the newspaper industry’s collaboration with the government’s war effort – invoking the trope of the press as “the nation’s Third Arm of Defence.” And despite criticism, “(e)vents have demonstrated that there is no menace involved in the principles of press freedom. Our newspapers have not abused their priceless birthright – they are using it to the full in the nation’s service.” And that service, the editorial went on for some length, was as a willing vehicle for government propaganda – though the editorial never uses that term but instead the euphemism “educating public opinion” – in promoting the draft law and Liberty Bonds.

255. “Morale.” Editor & Publisher, August 10, 1918, 80. E&P again raised the issue of newspapers as conduits of propaganda in describing the industry’s devotion to sustaining the morale of the American people while also ensuring that the “shirker of duty here is placed on a footing with the deserter from the army or navy.”

256. “Gen. Crowder Sends Message of Appreciation to the Press: Draft Administrator Testifies to High Service of Newspapers in Furthering Operation of Selective System – Have Consolidated Public Opinion and Patriotic Purpose.” Editor & Publisher, August 15, 1918, 12. Major General Enoch Herbert Crowder expressed his appreciation, through the pages of E&P, to the newspapers of the nation for “the assistance they have rendered in the practical operation of the draft law.”

257. “George Creel Sounds Call to Unselfish National Service to Newspapermen: In Address to North Carolina Editors the Chairman of the Committee on Public Information Urges that Our Newspapers Emphasize Truth, Not Tattle, and Carry to Every Person in the Land a Clear Understanding of American Purposes and Ideals – Press the Supreme Power in Developing Morale.” Editor & Publisher, August 31, 1918, 5-6.

258. “Frank I. Cobb Urges ‘The Restoration of the Free Play of Public Opinion’: Editor of New York World, in Recent Address, Scores Trend Toward Prussianism in Dealing with Radicalism – ‘The Competent, Investigating Reporter Must Come Back to His Own’ – Common Sense of American People Strongest Safeguard Against Bolshevism.” Editor & Publisher, January 8, 1920, 5-6, 28-29. Editor & Publisher reprinted in full an address by New York World editor Frank I. Cobb to the Women’s City Club of New York in “which he flayed unmercifully the efforts of governmental agencies to stifle the free expression of ideas.” The journal went on to note: “Mr. Cobb sees in our present public policies in dealing with radicalism a real menace to democracy, a throw-back to Prussianism,” which he defined as the “theory that it is the duty of government to protect the people from propaganda.”

259. “‘The Truth Shall Make You Free!’” Editor & Publisher, February 26, 1920, 24. Editorial complaints of the vestiges of a policy of hampering the press continued long after the war. “Open discussion must be re-established in America; the newspapers of America must immediately resume their place as the chroniclers of facts as THEY see them; as interpreters of actions as THEY see them – as THE TESTING GROUND OF PUBLIC OPINION.”

260. “Propaganda is a Gnawing Cancer that Saps the Vitality of Journalism: If Necessary Even News Must be Sacrificed to Cure the Disease, for It Devours Labor and White Paper, Destroys Morale, Creates Distrust and Robs Publishers of Just Returns for Advertising.” Editor & Publisher,
March 20, 1920, 5-6. Moore, a former member of the staff of the United Press Associations in their Washington bureau and then on the staff of the Associated Press in New York, castigated the “science’ of publicity” and called for publishers and editors to establish a policy to deal with this organized, post-war propaganda system.

261. Butman, Carl H. “War Department News Bureau Chief Files a Demurrer: Harm may Come from Political and Wall Street Handouts, He Admits, but Never from Those of Uncle Sam, the Tired Reporter’s Friend.” *Editor & Publisher*, April 3, 1920, 20, 36. Writer took to task the journal’s opposition to government and corporate handouts.

262. “The Government Press Agent.” *Editor & Publisher*, April 3, 1920, 32. A vestige of the war that displeased *Editor & Publisher* was the apparatus of government information that still clung to life – including the handout, which it called “the hookworm of journalism.” While these “so-called government news bureaus” served a useful function during the war, in peace they did more harm than good and needed to be “scrapped.”

263. Miller, Charles Grant. “Living Journalism and Poison that Kills: Propaganda and Puffery, Double-Cooked News and Predigested Opinion Sapping Lifeblood of America’s Newspapers.” *Editor & Publisher*, April 10, 1920, 5, 24-25. Miller, former editor-in-chief of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, one of the founders of the Newspaper Enterprise Association, former chief editorial writer for the Scripps chain, and former editor of the Christian Herald, complained that the system of propaganda still clung to life and continued to stifle the press.

264. ______________. “Living Journalism and Poison that Kills: Phrase-Loving America Proving an Easy Prey for Propagandists of Politicians and Big Corporation Chiefs after the War Set the Fashion.” *Editor & Publisher*, April 17, 1920, 9, 24, 26, 28. Another in series about organized post-war propaganda – this time concerned with the American love for axioms to relieve facts and complexity.

265. ______________. “Living Journalism and Poison that Kills: Newspaper Personnel Prostituted and Ruined by Ruthless Outlay of Corporation and Political Propagandists’ Gold.” *Editor & Publisher*, April 24, 1920, 7, 72. Another in series about organized post-war propaganda – this time concerned with the effects handouts have on journalists in doing their jobs.

266. ______________. “Living Journalism and Poison that Kills: ‘Interests’ Influence Through Advertising Columns and Bank Connections, Suppressing or Circulating News as They Please.” *Editor & Publisher*, May 8, 1920, 7, 35. Another in series about organized post-war propaganda – this time concerned with the effects on government policies by the “big interests.”

267. Harris, W.W. “Why Propaganda Still Clung to Life and Continued to Stifle the Press.” *Editor & Publisher*, May 22, 1920, 26-27. Former managing editor of the New York Sun and an associate of Ivy Lee defended the value of press agents and goes on to elaborate difference between “‘pressagentism’ and legitimate, modern publicity work.”

268. “Press Agents Convict Themselves.” *Editor & Publisher*, May 29, 1920, 5, 28. Editorial response to Harris’ defense that noted: “Every statement made by these press agents for their clients, or made by their clients, under their advice, which is usually the method employed, must be investigated and tested for fact if the daily newspaper is to keep faith with itself and its reading public.”

269. Orear, Leslie. “Press Agents Prepare to Re-Educate U.S.? One of Them Defends Calling as Best Means to Keep Reporters from Faking – Says American Public has been Mis-educated.” *Editor & Publisher*, May 29, 1920, 24, 28. A member of the publicity staff for Armour & Co. defended his calling by pointing to the press’s own ethical malfeasance. Also made a distinction “between the real publicity man and the ballyhooing, space-grabbing press agent of yesterday – a few of whom still exist.”


271. Calvert, Bruce. “Space-Grafter and Propagandists ‘Cooties of Modern Journalism’: Soldier-Parasites of the Front Have Quit, but the Press is Still Plagued with Pest that Saps Its Life-
Blood.” Editor & Publisher, July 31, 1920, 5-6, 66, 68. Calvert argued that the war was over and “The necessity for throttling the press, if it ever did exist, is surely past. Why should we still submit to those cootties, the professional propagandist and the space gaffer, that infest the highways and byways of journalism?”

272. “Which Way Are You Pulling.” Editor & Publisher, August 14, 1920, 26. Editorial argued it was the role of American newspapers in a time when two sets of forces – “one pulling down; the other pulling up”– to act as the partisan disseminators of a progressive ideal.


274. “Revolt at Capital Against ‘Handouts’: Correspondents Demand Return to Before-War Attitude Toward News by War and State Department Bureaus.” Editor & Publisher, September 4, 1920, 8. The journal noted that the “ripple” it started in its demand for an unstifled post-war press had become a “good-size wave” in the nation’s capital. “Correspondents are beginning to realize that by means of so-called war expediency many of the government’s bureaus have fastened upon the newspaper profession a system that threatens to strangle the hunt for legitimate news.”

275. “Press and Propaganda.” Editor & Publisher, September 18, 1920, 22. Editorial said, in part: “Comment of the newspapers throughout the country denunciatory of propaganda and publicity is steadily increasing in volume and vigor. Protests against the iniquity are swelling into a storm. From all sections and from all classes of dailies come declarations against the practice that are as unbusinesslike as they are unjournalistic.”

276. “Harding Warns the Press Congress Against Dangers of Propaganda: Primary Function of Press, He Says, is to Open Men’s Minds, Not Close Them – Williams Says Press Must Disarm Before World Peace Comes.” Editor & Publisher, October 15, 1921, 9. Report on meeting of the Press Congress of the World in which President Harding, via letter, warned of propaganda, which closed off men’s mind rather than opening them, which was the function of the press.

277. “Democracy and the Press.” Editor & Publisher, October 15, 1921, 32. Editorial noted that Harding, a former newspaperman, knew what he spoke of in warning of the “propaganda evil.” Propaganda, the editorial argued, was especially insidious in a time when it was becoming apparent that “the public is demanding of the press more detailed discussions of questions relating to politics, government and international relationships.”

278. “No Hand-Out Conference News.” Editor & Publisher, October 22, 1921, 26. The role of government information bureaus and press agents arose again in 1921 during the Conference for the Limitation of Armaments. In the relationship between unaggressive reporters who were coming more and more to depend on the handout rather than digging for the news, Editor & Publisher saw an invidious undermining of press freedom.

279. “Propaganda Editor Would Help: Will Irwin Says He Would Save Papers from Flood of Press Agentry – Better Salaries for Editorial Staff Also Needed.” Editor & Publisher, July 29, 1922, 12. Renowned reporter and press critic Will Irwin argued that newspapers need to establish a propaganda editor position because every idea was being “press-agented and both the newspapers and the public need to be protected from their publicity so that the truth can be arrived at in some way.”

280. Ellis, William T. Propagandists Feed New Fires of World Hate: Onward March of the Turks in Near East Brings a New Responsibility to American Editors Unequaled Since 1914 – Self-Restraint is Greatest Need.” Editor & Publisher, September 23, 1922, 5, 37. Ellis, whom E&P described as a well-known writer on the Near East, noted that propagandists were fanning the flames of conflict as they colored the news “to pervert the public vision into seeing only one side and getting only partial facts.” Offered some anecdotes of this.

281. “Back to Mental Normalcy.” Editor & Publisher, October 7, 1922, 30. Excerpts from speech by Dartmouth College President Ernest M. Hopkins in which he called for the elimination of publicity and public relations in religion, politics and business. According to the journal, he urged students to eliminate “the spirit of propaganda in the affairs of this world.”

282. “By Press Agent.” Editor & Publisher, October 7, 1922, 30. Editorial lauded several Western newspapers that “hit upon a happy solution
of the press agent evil without withholding any information from the public.” It noted that along with the normal credit lines, the papers had begun to credit articles to “By Press Agent.”

283. Brant, Irving. “Press is Serving Nation with a Poisoned Cup: Editorial Opinion on Fundamental Topics is Based Not on Independent Impartial Investigation by Newspapers’ Own Staff But on Propaganda Supplied by Interested Factions, It is Charged.” Editor & Publisher, December 9, 1922, 5, 26. Editorial page editor of the St. Louis Star argued that U.S. newspapers had “surrendered their initiative and become leaners on the propaganda staffs of great organizations.”

284. “Between Ourselves.” Editor & Publisher, December 9, 1922, 30. Editorial said Brant’s accusations were justified. “There is no question but that public opinion is being swayed today by propaganda and not news if news value is established on the basis of facts.”

285. “Newspapers Suffer ‘Propaganda Shock’: Public Can Best Remedy This War Affliction, Y.M.C.A. Information Bureau is Told – Immediate Organization of a Fact Cult Urged.” Editor & Publisher, January 6, 1923, 26. James Wright, editor of E&P, argued that the reading public was not getting the facts because the “sources of fact have been cut off from them by the hired propagandist who hands out half truths and sugar-coated lies under the guise of authentic information.”

286. “Wild Speculation and Why.” Editor & Publisher, January 6, 1923, 26. The journal argued that the greater evil in the “make-shift system” of handouts and press conferences was the fact that they had killed initiative among reporters who used to dig for the news, who used to act as reporters and not stenographers. For example, it said, D.C. press conferences “are worthless insofar as public service is concerned. They are only a boon to the lazy, the incompetent and the men who should never have been sent to the national capital.”

Responsibility of the press

287. “As a Profession. That of the Journalist, When Found at Its Best, is the Highest of Them All.” Editor & Publisher, August 15, 1903, 4. Excerpts from an editorial in the Memphis Scimitar that discussed commercialism in relation to the newspaper, the gist of which was: “In a mad rush for the almighty dollar the central idea upon which journalism was originally founded is in danger of being obliterated.”

288. “The Personal Factor.” Editor & Publisher, October 15, 1904, 4. Quotes speech by Arthur Spurgeon of the National Press Agency who said the work of the journalist determined “the character of the people and the kind of government the people shall possess.”

289. “Publicity of Criminal Trials: Why Reports of These Court Proceedings in the Newspapers Are Necessary.” Editor & Publisher, July 8, 1905, 4. Excerpts from a New York Sun reply to a reader asking why the coverage of crime could not be limited. The paper responded that publicity was for the protection of the accused and “the general public welfare.” It went on to note: “The great triumph of free civilization has been in securing that publicity, for the secrecy of past times served the purposes of despotism.”

290. “The Editor.” Editor & Publisher, July 15, 1905, 4. Reprint of essay about the ideals of journalism from the Omaha News that essentially said: “Newspapers are purveyors of news for a price. But they are infinitely more than that. They are forces of civilization. And their power is not of themselves. They get it from the people. Without the people, they would have no power. Therefore they owe a duty to stand for the best interests of the people.”

291. Nordan, Max. “Public Conscience.” Editor & Publisher, November 25, 1905, 4. Nordan argued that the newspaper: “is the visible embodiment of public opinion. It assumes the rights of the latter, with its judicial power which it wields even in its most fearful form, public contempt and moral annihilation; it takes its place as ally by the side of the objective MUST, and announces itself as the public conscience of the community.”

292. “The Middle Course.” Editor & Publisher, May 19, 1906, 4. Editorial about Joseph Pulitzer’s plan for a New York newspaper called for a middle ground between the “dry-as-dust” newspapers of a half century before and the then extant extremes of the sensationalist press. “Yellowness has been overdone, and already it is defeating its own end. So it is after we have waded through all the froth of sensationalism we turn with a sense of satisfaction to the well-balanced, sane and reliable newspaper.”

293. “Bryan to the Craft.” Editor & Publisher, September 8, 1906, 1, 4. William Jennings Bryan,
at a fete for him, told 150 newspapermen that the United States was the best place for journalism in the world largely because newspapers were powerful molders of public opinion. Bryan went on to describe a “great moral awakening” in America that the newspapers must participate in and in which journalists must quit “the selling of consciences for a salary.”

294. “A Fight for Ideals.” Editor & Publisher. September 8, 1906, 4. Editorial response to Bryan’s speech noted with some chagrin that the round of applause by the New York newspapermen that ended his speech “was a sad commentary indeed on the system that dominates all too many newspaper offices.” It went on to urge: “Let us take from him all the inspiration we can and fight for our ideals as hard as the environment with which we are surrounded will allow.”

295. “Interesting Debate.” Editor & Publisher. February 2, 1907, 7. “Modern Journalism: What Should a Newspaper Attempt to Do?” was the subject of a debate between New York Evening Journal editor Arthur Brisbane, and William H. McElroy, formerly editor of the New York Tribune. Brisbane defended the mode of journalism that drove his paper, “yellow journalism,” which appealed to the masses. “New York is the only city in the world that does not contain a successful anarchistic or socialistic journal, and this is due to the fact that ‘yellow’ journals exist.” McElroy insisted that newspapers need not print all the news it acquires, but can be judicious and sensitive in its selection.

296. “Roosevelt to Newspaper Men.” Editor & Publisher, June 15, 1907, 4. Without much comment except to describe it as sound advice, Editor & Publisher, published the remarks of President Theodore Roosevelt who told the National Editorial Association that in “assailing wrongdoing and wickedness,” the press must be sure of its facts and it must base its judgments “on conduct and not on the social or economic position of the individual.”

297. “Readers Want Facts.” Editor & Publisher, September 26, 1908, 1. Article on a survey by Northwestern University Professor W.D. Scott of 4,000 newspaper readers in Chicago. One of the responses indicated, Scott said, that readers did not want their newspapers to act as interpreters, defenders or advocates of the truth. “The ideal paper would have to do only with facts. The news would have to be well written, but the interest would be mainly in the news itself and not in the reporter’s or publisher’s views concerning it.”

298. “More About Reforming Newspapers.” Editor & Publisher, February 27, 1909, 8. Editor & Publisher’s editorial page responded to a criticism in that month’s Atlantic Monthly titled “Is an Honest Newspaper Possible,” by an anonymous “New York Editor,” taking to task the critical editor’s thesis that a good newspaper must act as a teacher and “must speak as one in authority, putting certain axiomatic principles of economics and morals as assumed and sealed, written forever on the two tables of stone.” In doing so, the editorial writer pointed to the very complexity of objectivity and the difficulty of speaking with some semblance of authority on any issue.

299. Newspaper in Modern Life. Baltimore Clergyman Gives His View of Their Opportunities.” Editor & Publisher, April 24, 1909, 7. The Rev. Dr. E.A. McAlpin, in a talk titled “Newspapers,” argued that there were two kinds of newspapers – the “yellow journal,” which is filled with fiction and stories about crimes and scandals; and the paper that attempts to give readers a “true account” of news locally, nationally, and internationally. The latter is what a good paper does best because it “makes all the world kin.”

300. “Must Battle for Progress: Editor Who Stands Still, is a Failure, Says Florida Writer.” Editor & Publisher, April 24, 1909, 18. Excerpts from essay by Charles E. Jones – formerly of the Jacksonville Metropolis, in which he noted the “grave responsibilities” that face a young journalist just entering the field. Journalists “must battle unalterably and everlasting for progress, for morality, for honesty and for improvements along every line that tends to the upbuilding of the State and nation.”

301. “Press A Civilizer: Dr. Albert Shaw in Address Before Conference of Charities and Correction at Buffalo Says, ‘Get the Newspapers With You.’” Editor & Publisher, June 19, 1909, 4. Shaw, in a speech, described the press as “the highest agent in modern civilization.”

302. “As Useful as College. Head of Chicago University Lauds the Press as an Educator.” Editor & Publisher, June 26, 1909, 8. Excerpts from speech by Henry Pratt Judson, president of the University of Chicago, in which he marveled at the fact that newspapers made so few errors in the
process of educating the public.

303. “Newspapers. The Successful Paper of Today Applies a Constructive Principle,” Editor & Publisher, December 11, 1909, 6. George McQuaid, a well known southern editor and writer, said, in a speech, that party political organs were pretty much a thing of the past. Instead, “(t)he editor now attempts to let the people know. He is working to produce a newspaper for the masses, to tell them truly and quickly what is being done everywhere and to explain to them in lucid form what is being done to them.”

304. Eckman, George P. “Pulpit and Press: Newspapers are to be Reckoned Among the Most Potent Forces Making for Righteousness – Pulpit May Well Look Upon the Press as Its Most Important Ally.” Editor & Publisher, December 25, 1909, 6-7. In an essay written for the journal, George P. Eckman, pastor of St. Paul’s Methodist Episcopal Church in New York, argued: “The most influential literary product of our day is the newspaper, and whoever pronounces impartial judgment upon its moral quality must acknowledge that, with some notorious and flagrant exceptions which will diminish in number as society rises in dignity, newspapers are to be reckoned among the most potent forces making for righteousness in modern times.”

305. “Ideal Newspaper – Its Sole Function Is to Give the News Truthfully and Dispassionately – Editorials Have Not the Influence They Once Had.” Editor & Publisher, January 1, 1910, 6. Excerpts from an essay by Erman J. Ridgeway, president of Everybody’s Magazine, from the Atlanta Georgian on the “Ideal Newspaper.” Ridgeway argued the readers of newspapers were against interpretation. The reader tells the editor: “‘If you know of any facts of an earlier day or in the experience of other peoples that will help us to interpret events from day to day, let us have them. As for your theories, you are welcome to them. We have not time for them.’”

306. “Read the Newspapers. Advice Given to Evening Study Club of Baltimore, by W.K. Barrett.” Editor & Publisher, January 29, 1910, 12. William K. Barrett in a speech titled “What and How to Read,” described newspapers as one of the public’s “greatest sources of enlightenment” and the “chief educator of the masses.”

307. “American Newspapers: Tremendous Power for Good and Always Found Defending Right.” Editor & Publisher, February 5, 1910, 7. Excerpts from a speech by Howard S. Biscoe on “The History of American Journalism” in which he argued that: “It is the modern newspaper that serves as the moral limelight of the age.”


309. “New Journalism: As Compared With the Old Order – Leading Editorial Has Suffered by the Transition – Integrity and Cleanliness Pay the Best Dividend – Yellow Journalism.” Editor & Publisher, May 21, 1910, 6. Col. Henry Watterson, editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal, in a speech to the Associated Press of Canada, castigated contemporary ethical standards among journalists and compared personal and impersonal journalism. “The old order of personal journalism, with its ideas of individual accountability, often mere egotism and vanity, has passed away. The new order of impersonal journalism, with its ideas of commercial honor and of public obligation, has not quite adjusted itself to its enlarged habitation and richer apparel.”

310. “Watterson Dinner. Distinguished Editor Guest of the New York Press Club. Pleads for Clean Journalism – Declares that News, Like Victuals, Should be Served Hot and Savory – Recounts Early Experiences and Tells of Difficulties in Finding Work – Old Virtues Best.” Editor & Publisher, June 4, 1910, 1, 4. Col. Henry Watterson, in a speech, said: “The newspaper is not a commodity to be sold over the counter like dry goods and groceries. It should be, as it were, a keeper of the public conscience, its rating professional, like the ministry and the law, not commercial like the department store and the bucket shop. Its workers should be gentlemen, not eavesdroppers and scavengers.”

311. “Commercialization. Modern Press Flayed by Wisconsin Editor – Discerns Reckless Spirit of
Irresponsibility and Lack of Ideals – Publisher of To-day Circulation Crazy.” Editor & Publisher, July 23, 1910, 6. W.H. Bridgman, editor of the Stanley Republican in a speech to the Wisconsin Editorial Association denounced what he called “commercialized journalism.” “The feeling of professional pride which permeates the work of the true editor and publisher is lacking in the commercialized journal. Your true editor acknowledges his responsibility to God and his duty to his fellow man.”

312. “Need a Conscience: Growing Public Demand for Newspaper Guided by Right Principles. Purchasable Press Foe to Liberty and Progress, Says California Minister.” Editor & Publisher, August 13, 1910, 6. The Rev. Reynold E. Blight, in a speech, noted that in the ability to dispense information broadly, the nation’s newspapers superseded the “pulpit, the school, the forum” in power over public opinion.

313. “Tribute to Press, Most Potent Force of the Time, Declares Idaho Senator.” Editor & Publisher, September 10, 1910, 5. Idaho Senator Borah, in a speech couched in criticism of the press, said that: “Yet, there still remain those who hold with unswerving fidelity to the highest conceptions of unapproachable citizenship; still remain the mentality, the energy, the patriotism behind the press as a whole which make it the most potent factor in the whole social political forces of these stirring times.”

314. “Roosevelt Speech. Memorable Address to Members of New York Press Club. The Colonel Enjoyed His Reception So Much that He Willingly Missed His Train – A Real ‘Heart to Heart’ Talk – Speeches by President Hennessy and Acting Mayor Mitchel – List of Reception Committee.” Editor & Publisher, September 24, 1910, 1, 4. Roosevelt noted that: “There have been newspaper men who have taken the base position of saying that the newspaper has nothing to do but cater to the public taste; that whether the taste demanded was vicious or good, was not its affair; that it only had to furnish what the public cared to have. That position is a position of infamy. The Congressman, the Chief Executive, the State Legislator, the city official, who based his action only upon the theory that whatever the public wished, it was to have would be guilty of high treason to the Republic.”

315. “Newspaper Praised. Chicago Divine Declares Press is the Latter-Day Autocrat.” Editor & Publisher, October 8, 1910, 2. The Rev. Joseph A. Milburn said the press was more powerful than either the clergy or legislative bodies. It should not be called the Fourth Estate, he said, but the “Latter-Day Autocrat” as the “distributor of light.”

316. “Old Fashioned Editor: Survives in General Felix Agnus, Declares Arthur Brisbane.” Editor & Publisher, October 8, 1910, 5. Excerpt from an editorial in the New York Evening Journal by Arthur Brisbane in which he described General Felix Agnus, the editor of the Baltimore American and Baltimore Star, as the best of both the old and new journalism. Agnus represented the old-fashioned personal journalism by using his power not for partisan political gain but for the betterment of Baltimore.

317. “Keep Clean. Editor Wright, of Cleveland, and Editor Schermerhorn, of Detroit, Talk Vigorously to the Sphinx Club of New York.” Editor & Publisher, November 19, 1910, 4. Nathaniel C. Wright, editor of the Cleveland Leader and the Toledo Blade, said in a speech on “The Editor and His Responsibility to His Readers” that from its first day, a newspaper enters into an “implied contract” with its readers to publish the truth as best as it can be ascertained.

318. “Press Club Banquet. New Yorkers Entertain President Taft and Governor Dix. New York Governor Delivered Best Speech of His Career – Places Strong Reliance on Newspapers – Has ‘Little Sympathy with Criticism that Newspapers are Unfair and Unjust’ – Whitelaw Reid Spoke of Old Days in Park Row.” Editor & Publisher, January 28, 1911, 1, 4. At banquet, Gov. Dix argued that: “The world has been made largely what it is through the invention of printing and the development of the modern newspaper. The world will be made better as our newspapers are true to themselves and to the people, and as they open the way to the possibility of human achievement along lines that will work for universal happiness.”

319. “A Public Servant. The Newspaper Thus Characterized by Dean Williams – ‘He Serves His Newspaper Best Who Serves His Community Best’ – Peculiar Responsibility Rests Upon Journalism.” Editor & Publisher, February 18, 1911, 6. Dean Walter Williams of the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri, in a speech, said: “The newspaper is the greatest public utility institution. While all other public utility institutions have been regulated by law, the newspaper is, in a special
sense, its own regulator.”


321. “David Graham Phillips.” Editor & Publisher, March 4, 1911, 12. The journal published an excerpt from a memoriam to the journalist David Graham Phillips that first ran in the Saturday Evening Post that elucidated the debate about the quality of the old editors and the old journalism – oft pointed to as an ideal – as compared with the new journalism. “Journalism in this country to-day has been raised to greater heights than ever before. The influence of print was never so pervasive. We have no Horace Greeley – which, as well as anything else, shows the advance. To deal with a complex subject like specie resumption by means of a striking epigram, or with the field movement of armies by dogmatic opinion formed in an armchair, would hardly answer journalism’s best requirements nowadays. Those requirements can be answered only by dealing primarily with the facts.”

322. “Prays for the Press. Chaplain in Connecticut Senate Asks for Guidance for Newspapers.” Editor & Publisher, March 25, 1911, 2. Chaplain J.F. Sexton, after the Connecticut State Senate had been called to order, offered the following prayer for the press. “Almighty and gracious God, who has favored our land by causing knowledge to run to and fro, we beseech Thee to strengthen our public press in all things that tend to the enlightenment and betterment of the people. Save our public journals from low standards touching morals and government. Deliver them from sensationalism, untruthfulness, malice, dishonest political measures, personal attacks and the parade of the details of crime and vice. Make them the instruments of good and the defenders of justice, mercy and truth. May they respect morality and honor religion, so that wisdom and knowledge may become the stability of our times. Amen.”

323. “A Comparison: Writer in Newspaper Owner (London) Explains the Difference Between ‘News Getter and News Giver’ – Contrasts British and American Standards of News Values.” Editor & Publisher, April 1, 1911, 4. Writer argued: “The new journalism in the United States – for even there is to be found the old, as well – seeks to provide for everybody, man, woman and child; and in its attempt to become the daily instructor, entertainer and news provider for the whole family, futilities, inasmuch as news values are concerned, stuff out its columns.” Includes graphic of comparative content analysis.

324. MacArthur, Robert Stuart. “Press and Pulpit: Allies in All That Is Noblest in Civilization and Divinest in Humanity. Ideal of Each is Best Attained When Both Join Hands in Interest of Humanity and Religion.” Editor & Publisher, April 29, 1911, 8. MacArthur, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in New York City, but argued the press was an ally with the church and was a “force for righteousness.”

325. “Decent Journalism Pays.” Editor & Publisher, May 6, 1911, 11. Editorial said, in part: “It is the duty of the newspaper to expose evil, sham and graft; to arraign at the bar of public opinion, and eventually bring to justice, officials of the city, State or national government who have betrayed their trust, but it is not its privilege or duty to print untrue or libelous stories about anyone or to infer editorially or otherwise that their conduct is not proper or their motives are not above suspicion.”

326. “Editorials vs. News. Some of the Reasons Why the Former No Longer Sway Public Opinion – Function of Newspaper Lies in Its Facilities for Disseminating News and Power for Good.” Editor & Publisher, May 6, 1911, 6. Frank L. Mayes, editor of the Pensacola Journal in a speech titled “The Editorial Page and the Public,” argued that: “The real power of a newspaper to-day lies in its facilities for disseminating news, for exposing corruption, for turning light on to dark places, and for preventing wrongdoing by the mere fear of exposure which its existence makes sure.”

Golding Discusses Important Ethical Questions


328. “Freedom of the Press. Melville E. Stone’s Valuable Address at the Boston Press Club’s Anniversary – How Three Great Events in 1811 Have Influenced Modern Journalism – Rise of the Editorial Column – the Future.” Editor & Publisher, December 21, 1911, 4. Melville E. Stone, general manager of the Associated Press, in a speech, said: “I take it that we all agree that the newspaper, to perfectly fulfill its mission, should, first, furnish the information upon which the citizen may form a judgment for his guidance in both his business and his political relations; second, it should by intelligent presentation and discussion of public questions, fairly lead the citizen in the path of business and civic righteousness, and third, it may very properly contribute to the healthful entertainment of the reader.”

329. Wasson, James B. “The Editor As a Preacher.” Editor & Publisher, December 23, 1911, 7, 23. The Rev. James B. Wasson, chaplain of the Strangers Welfare Fellowship in New York, argued in an essay that while the power of the preacher had waned, that of other agencies – such as the editor, “is practically the only preacher who is listened to to-day by the masses of the people.”

330. “Moral Leadership. Mr. Withers Declares that It has been Transferred from the Newspapers to the Magazines – Function of Daily Press, He Asserts, is to Print the News and Occupy the Field of Suggestive Leadership.” Editor & Publisher, December 30, 1911, 4. H.C. Withers, city editor of the Dallas News in a speech titled “The Press and Social Progress,” said, in part: “The public must have the news and the newspaper that gives it is fulfilling its duty. Because of the public demand for the news the daily newspaper is a public necessity.”

331. “World’s Debt to Press Optimism: How the Newspapers Have Won Victories for Humanity Because of Confidence in the Country and its People.” Editor & Publisher, February 10, 1912, 1. John H. Tennant, managing editor of the Evening World, spoke on “The Optimism of the Press,” and Editor & Publisher was so impressed it ran his entire speech.

332. “Public the Newspaper’s Problem. Louis T. Golding Discusses Important Ethical Questions at the University of Missouri.” Editor & Publisher, May 18, 1912, 6. Louis T. Golding, editor of the St. Joseph News-Press, in a speech, said: “No newspaper can hold favor which is not devoted exclusively to the public interest.”

333. “Newspaper Ideals: No Calling Affords So Many Opportunities for Usefulness as Journalism – Back of the Ideal Newspaper Must be the Ideal Man – Great Hope in School of Journalism Founded on Right Principles.” Editor & Publisher, May 18, 1912, 19. B.B. Hebert, editor of the National Printer-Journalist and founder of the National Editorial Association, in a speech titled “Newspaper Ideals” to a gathering of editors in Columbia, Missouri, observed that, the newspaper ideal had yet to be attained. And that ideal, he said, consisted of “the old one of giving the news of home, State, country and the whole world. Second was to educate through well-written editorials that interpret the facts. Next was service, which involved: “Direct work for good government, for better social conditions, for all measures for the promotion of sanitation or the safeguarding the health and security of the people, for improvement of homes, towns, and all social, moral and material conditions; for good roads and streets, play-grounds and parks, for good schools, education and true religion, and all humanitarian and benevolent institutions, and the promotion of patriotism and a broad philanthropy.”

334. “Columbia Lectures on Journalism: Melville E. Stone Discusses the Topic ‘What is News?’ Before the Students – Scope of the American Daily – Duty the Press Owes the Public in Furnishing Information – Instructive Journalism Upheld.” Editor & Publisher, November 29, 1913, 461. Melville E. Stone, general manager of the Associated Press, in a speech titled “What Is News?” to the Pulitzer School of Journalism at Columbia University, said: “We owe a duty to our country which is larger than that we owe to our counting rooms, and this I conceive to be the first lesson which should and ought to be taught to anyone having in mind the pursuit of this business of American journalism. Our enterprises are not purely commercial. If we are to do nothing more than to furnish mere entertainment for the public then we fall to the level of the lowest panderer.”

335. “Editors at Columbia: Missouri University Journalism Week Most Successful Since Inauguration. Addresses by Prominent
Newspapermen and Women of the Country – Associated Afternoon Papers Organized for Raising of Business Standards and Promotion of Foreign Advertising – Nelson’s Talk.” Editor & Publisher, May 23, 1914, Front Page, 1023, 1026, 1035. Dean Walter Williams in a speech at Journalism Week at the University of Missouri, argued that: “Old style journalism was that the editor tried to find out when and where ‘hell on earth’ was going to break loose and have a reporter there to describe it. In the new journalism it is to find out where heaven on earth will start and to have a reporter there to boost it.”

336. Crane, Frank. “What a Publication Owes to Its Readers.” Editor & Publisher, November 14, 1914, 428. Crane said in a speech that telling the truth was the “only debt” a newspaper owed its readers.


338. “Responsibility of Press: Much of Former Trustworthiness Lost, Declares British Editor.” Editor & Publisher, May 21, 1915, 8. Earnest Parke, managing editor of the London Star and the Morning Chronicle, said in an interview with the journal: “While the press has made huge strides during the past twenty years in some directions – in enterprise, in news gathering, in its appeal to wider sympathies and lowlier interests – in others it has retrograded.” He went on to lament that some newspapers have a “lessened sense of responsibility.”

339. “Newspaper His Text: Connecticut Clergyman Says That They are an Ally of Religion.” Editor & Publisher, February 5, 1916, 1049. The Rev. Albert C. Dieffenbach in a sermon to the First Unitarian Church in Hartford declared that newspapers, “if well regulated,” were “an ally of religion.”

340. “Progressive American Journalism Should Abandon Mob Psychology: Paramount Ethical Demand is That Every Legitimate Interest of Society Should be Fairly Represented in the Daily Press – Partisanship Cannot be Played Upon With Safety – American People Can be Aroused to Interest in Every Vital Movement.” Editor & Publisher, March 4, 1916, 1183. Dr. J.T. House, professor of English in the State Normal School in Wayne, Nebraska, in a speech titled “Progressive Journalism,” said, in part: “The 24,000 papers published in this country give us a common mind and enable us to work together for the ideals we have received from the experience of the past or the unfolding of the present.”

341. “Whitman Raps Newspapers: Resents Unfairness and Ignorance but Says True Information Heralds Reform.” Editor & Publisher, March 11, 1916, 1218. In an interview with a reporter from the New York World, Governor Whitman said: “Neither Mayors, nor Governors, nor Presidents can give good government of and by themselves. Every citizen must help, and this aid waits on the education in public matters that only the press can provide. Give the people true information and they will take care of the reformation.”

342. “How to Help to Make Newspapers Better: James B. Wooten, Formerly Editor of Omaha Bee, Points Out Responsibility of the Public in This Direction – Newspapers Must be Free to Serve All Legitimate Interests and be Without Limits.” Editor & Publisher, April 22, 1916, 1433. Digest of an article that had appeared in the Continent that argued, in part, that “The nearest possible approach to ideal journalism is a paper of purpose, of conviction, irreproachable in character and with enough ability to claim distinction among the best of readers.”

343. “What the Editor Owes to the Community: Mr. Rapp is Under a Moral Obligation to Help It to Become Cleaner, Purer, and Better – Should Cultivate Accuracy of Statement and Be Careful of Reputations – Other Valuable Suggestions.” Editor & Publisher, May 13, 1916, 1568. John M. Rapp, editor and publisher of the Wayne County Record, speaking to a conference of Illinois editors.

344. “Press Warmly Praised by James Melvin Lee: Discussing, at the Public Forum of a Church, Newspaper Ethics He Explains the Daily Paper’s Attitude Toward Activities of Clergymen and Lauds Decent Advertising.” Editor & Publisher, July 22, 1916, 1150. Lee, the director of the Department of Journalism at New York University, noted, among other things, that “the purpose of the church was to give the news of the world to come to interpret this news in relation to the life here; and that of the
newspaper was to give the news of the world to-day and likewise to interpret its meaning.”

345. “The House of the Interpreter.” Editor & Publisher, August 5, 1916, 12. The strength of modern newspapers is not found in only the news pages, the editorial writer argued. “All great newspapers are more than mere chronicles of happenings – they are also INTERPRETERS of those happenings.”

346. “Draws Vivid Picture of Idea Newspaper: Louis Wiley, of New York Times, Outlines Policies and Methods of Up-to-the-Hour Journalism – Discusses Awakening of Advertisers to Their Opportunities.” Editor & Publisher, December 23, 1916, 14. Louis Wiley, business manager of the New York Times, in a speech, said: “To record the events of one day throughout the world and to discuss their significance is the function of the newspaper. It should print the news without color or prejudice. The news withheld from publication should be that which debases the intelligence without adding to the sum of desirable knowledge.”

347. “Publisher Moon’s View of Modern Journalism: Tells Trenton Rotary Club that Newspaper to be of Service Must Have Conscience, Defend Public Interests and Preach Justice and Righteousness.” Editor & Publisher, March 10, 1917, 23. Owen Moon Jr., publisher of the Trenton (New Jersey) Times, in a speech, said: “Over against a servile press let us portray the sphere and function of the modern newspaper which is no longer the mouthpiece of an individual, but an institution of a semi-public nature, expressing, as humans may, current opinion, with a full recognition of its responsibility to the people.”


350. “Enlisted for the War!” Editor & Publisher, June 15, 1918, 22. After the avid isolationist Senator Hiram Johnson, in a speech on the floor of the Senate, railed against a democracy turned autocracy, charging: “You have a cowed press today, and you know it.” Editor & Publisher responded that what the senator described as a “cowed press” was in fact a press that, with the start of the war, had rejected all partisanship in favor or patriotism. “Thus a very real change has come over the temper of the American press – a change which in no respect means the abdication of its rights, functions, or authority. The present crisis has demonstrated that the principle of press freedom, assured to us by the fathers, carries with it no menace to the Republic – that a free press is a source of strength, not of weakness, to a nation which has nourished it in peace times and which looks to it for an interpretation of the national will in war times.”

351. “Urges Budding Journalists to Maintain High Ideals: Oswald Garrison Villard Sees Danger to Publishing Business in Increasing Production Costs – Trend is Toward Consolidation of Daily Newspapers.” Editor & Publisher, June 15, 1918, 28. Oswald Garrison Villard, president of the New York Evening Post, in a commencement address to the students of the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri in 1918, said the press “remains the bulwark of our liberties; the only profession which affords opportunity of influencing public opinion, of doing food, of assailing evil, of going to the rescue of the poor and the oppressed, of daily assaulting those entrenched in privilege and wrongdoing, of exposing faithless servants of the republic, and of upholding those who are true to its ideals.”

352. “Dawn.” Editor & Publisher, November 16, 1918, 26. Editorial sermonized that with end of war and “a world cleansed and renewed in the purifying fires” – “The other phase of The Great Task – making the world ‘safe for democracy’ has still to be wrought.” All of which, the editorial argued, brought with it “the new duties, the new calls for service and for sanity.”

Seventieth Birthday – Says Papers Must Remain Large.” Editor & Publisher, January 25, 1919, 10. Charles R. Miller, editor-in-chief of the New York Times, observed that over his many years, “The progress of the editorial page fully kept pace with the development of the treatment of the news. It became the vehicle of a real effort to interpret the news to the readers, gained greater breadth and evolved into a real guiding spirit; on that proved itself worth of the reader’s consideration.”

354. “Fighting Fire.” Editor & Publisher, February 8, 1919, 32. Post-war, the journal argued the newspaper was well placed to advocate for democracy as a bulwark to fend off radicalism. “The editor, from time immemorial, has been ‘selling’ democracy to the people – and making his community sterile soil for the propagation of the seeds of anarchy, disloyalty, sedition or insurrection against democratic rule.”

355. “To Preserve Sanity in the World.” Editor & Publisher, June 19, 1919, 36. Editor & Publisher argued, the newspaper was well placed to advocate for democracy as a bulwark to fend off radicalism. “Our newspapers must make it their first concern that reactionary fanaticism shall cease to sway the minds of men,” the journal argued in implicitly calling for a democratic propaganda.

356. “Showalter, W.D. “A Free Press the First Line of Defense for the World’s Democracies: Great Principle, Safeguarding Human Rights, Always in Conflict with Ruling Classes and Special Interests – Popular Governments Still Adhere to Secret Process in Conduct of Public Business.” Editor & Publisher, July 3, 1919, 13. The news editor of Editor & Publisher began his stint with an essay extolling the virtues of a free press to democracy and raising the theme of responsibility: “No newspaper may prosper,” he wrote, “or attain influence and prestige, unless it is consecrated to the service of the people.”

357. “Meeting a Menace.” Editor & Publisher, July 31, 1919, 32. Editorial raised the theme of newspaper responsibility in the context of preaching democracy in its pages in the face of the “insidious spread of doctrines about government which are hostile to our established order.”

358. Rogers, Jason. “Newspapers’ Duty in the National Crisis to Ignore False Labor Leaders: Give Space to and Play Up Constructive Efforts of Those Trying to Hold Labor and Industry Together – Tenth Article on ‘Newspaper Making.’” Editor & Publisher, November 6, 1919, 8, 12. 359. “1920, Second Year of Reconstruction.” Editor & Publisher, January 1, 1920, 24. Editorial argued newspapers as bulwarks of democracy had the duty to proselytize for adherents to the “doctrine of toil and thrift” to replenish the world’s wealth and to return to a way of life constrained by a sense of normalcy.”

360. “The Call of the Nation.” Editor & Publisher, January 15, 1920, 5-6, 9. A collection of short articles by journalists and officials emphasizing the theme of the newspaper’s responsibility to serve democracy in a time of labor unrest.

361. “Printed Word has Only Started Divine Mission.” Editor & Publisher, May 28, 1921, 21, 24. Editorial that argued: “It is the newspaper that has come to have a definite character and reputation, moulded and shaped by adherence to well-defined principles of policy. ‘To hell with consistency,’ could be said of Dana, for the Sun was Dana and it was read to see what startling thing Dana would say next; but the newspaper of today that is wanting in sincerity of purpose and definiteness of policy will have small following.”

362. “Giving Public Facts, First Duty of Press: In International Affairs, As Well As Domestic, Responsibility of Newspapers has Increased – Universal Understanding Needed.” Editor & Publisher, June 4, 1921, 12. In a speech Frank Leroy Blanchard, the associate editor of E&P, explored the question: What are facts? He noted that one could state the facts and still “tell the most diabolical falsehood.”

363. Robb, Jr., Arthur T. “Coming Newspaper will Emphasize the News: World Events will be Written for the Farmer and City-Dweller, Says Dr. Bleyer, Who Sees Low Pay and High Turnover of News Staffs as Journalism’s Big Weakness.” Editor & Publisher, December 16, 1922, 5-6. Willard G. Bleyer, professor of journalism at the University of Wisconsin and former newspaper man who read and studied several newspapers each day said in an interview that a paper must give its readers world and national news and its link to local affairs; create a staff of local reporters and pay them enough that they could “remain in newspaper work, marry and raise families on its rewards” in order to maintain a news department that would be the “backbone of a newspaper’s service to its community.”

Education and professionalism

35
364. “University Training.” Editor & Publisher, October 17, 1903, 4. Editorial encouraged and defended the need for university education for future journalists because it would lead to “training of the mind in accurate and concentrated thought” and in the “training of the conscience of their students in habits of spontaneous morality.”

365. “Newspaper Scope. St. Clair McKelway Writes of the Press, Its Province, Power and Responsibilities, on Occasion of Hartford Courant’s Anniversary.” Editor & Publisher, November 12, 1904, 7. St. Clair McKelway, editor of the Brooklyn Eagle, wrote: “There never was a time when journalism was a higher moral watermark in the United States than now. The great bulk of American journalism is sound at the core. It is freer from uncleanliness, from scurrility and from biased reporting than it was ever before. It is not nearly so good as it ought to be or as it will be, but it is better than it was in the past and it is becoming better every year.”


367. “Joseph Bryan on Journalism.” Editor & Publisher, April 7, 1906, 4. Joseph Bryan, owner of the Richmond Times Dispatch, quoted in a speech to students saying a “good college education” would give a budding journalist an advantage.

368. “The Journalistic School.” Editor & Publisher, May 25, 1907, 4. Editorial noting the opening of a school of journalism at the University of Minnesota. The journal wished the new school success because such training would certainly be valuable. “But,” it emphasized, “the real practical knowledge of newspaper work can only be obtained by hard knocks in the harness.”

369. “Code of Newspaper Ethics.” Editor & Publisher, September 12, 1908, 4. The journal published a code proposed by an Edmund Booth that had appeared in the trade journal Western Publisher. This particular code particularly targeted partisanship and the necessity for an independent newspaper to concern itself with the good of the people.

370. “Equipment: Shall the Editor Go Untrained and Untaught? – Knowledge and Strength and Inspiration Are His Who Reads the Really Great Books.” Editor & Publisher, August 20, 1910. Walter Williams, dean of the school of journalism at the University of Missouri, discussed “Equipment for Journalism” – listing the many things a good journalist needed to succeed.

371. Williams, Walter. “Journalist Schools. Progressive Movement to Class Journalism as a Profession Like Law and Medicine, Strong in Middle West – Increasingly Large Enrollment of Students. Editor & Publisher, December 24, 1910, 20. Essay by Walter Williams, dean of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, who noted that there was nothing new about journalism education. “Only the form of present day education in colleges and universities is new. Journalists have been educated differently in the past for their profession, some by broad, general courses in universities and colleges, some by the training which comes from practical experience. No journalist, however, has succeeded who was untrained, untaught.” The only difference between the new education for journalism and the old was “its recognition of journalism as a profession, as law and medicine are professions.”

372. “Newspaper Ideals: No Calling Affords So Many Opportunities for Usefulness as Journalism – Back of the Ideal Newspaper Must be the Ideal Man – Great Hope in School of Journalism Founded on Right Principles.” Editor & Publisher, May 18, 1912, 19. B.B. Hebert, editor of the National Printer-Journalist and founder of the National Editorial Association, in a speech titled “Newspaper Ideals” to a gathering of editors in Columbia, Missouri, argued that newspaper men had come a long way since the age of the post-Civil War era, which was especially important because behind the ideal newspaper is the “ideal man fitted and trained for highest attainment.”


374. “City Editors of Ohio Form New Association: Organize for Betterment of Their Papers Through Co-operation and Intelligent Work – Will Admit Copy Readers to Membership – Resolutionsadopted Stress Accuracy, Justice and Fairness.” Editor & Publisher, March 11, 1916, 1921. The president of the National Association of City Editors told the gathering that the association “can be a wonderful wielder of moral force. We are not
combining for increased wages – for telling the publisher what to do – but for the betterment of every paper in the land through intelligent work of the city editor.”

375. “‘Boss’ Lord Praises Journalism Schools: Tells Kansas Editors This New Awakening Will Uplift the Standard of the Profession and Revolutionize the Newspaper Business – Urges the Necessity of Hard Study for Success.” *Editor & Publisher*, May 13, 1916, 1563. Noted editor Chester S. Lord in a speech titled “Journalism as a Profession” to the Kansas Editorial Association during newspaper week at the State University in Lawrence, Kansas. He said, in part: “The profession of journalism is making immeasurable progress. Many of the people do not require the services of a lawyer. Many rarely employ a physician. Thousands seldom listen to a clergyman. But in these wide-awake days everybody of any account must read the newspaper, for the reading of the newspaper has come to be an absolute essential to the daily routine of every intelligent person.”

376. Merrill, Bradford. “How Value, Volume and Appreciation of News Have Developed.” *Editor & Publisher*, June 24, 1916. Bradford Merrill of the *New York American*, in an address before the National Editorial Association Convention, said the “most promising young men and women” on his staff had graduated from the Columbia School of Journalism.

377. “Buckeye City Editors Meet at Columbus: Second Annual Convention of Organization Whose Membership Includes Representatives of Majority of Live Daily Newspapers of Ohio – Have Code of Ethics.” *Editor & Publisher*, January 13, 1917, 10. An association of Ohio city editors was organized in March 1916 in Lima, Ohio. It also allowed copy readers to be members. During its first meeting it resolved that it favored drafting a “code of professional ethics” in which the members would go on record “as opposed to ‘faking,’ reprinting articles from exchanges without credit, the publication of unfounded rumors, and in favor of the general uplift of the traditions of the profession.”

378. “Emphasize Need of Training in Business: Dean of Oregon School of Journalism in Address Before Western Association of Teachers of Journalism Declares Training in Every Phase of the Work Most Essential.” *Editor & Publisher*, January 6, 1917, 9. Dean Eric W. Allen of the School of Journalism at the University of Oregon noted, in part, that in the previous decade journalism schools had shown they filled a need by providing training difficult to obtain in a newsroom only.

379. “Newspaper Training Needed: Dean Williams Talks in Cleveland About Schools of Journalism.” *Editor & Publisher*, January 6, 1917, 9. Dr. Talcott Williams, dean of the School of Journalism at Columbia University, said in a speech that because the modern newspaper “plays a more important part in the American home than almost any other influence,” there was a greater need than ever for newspaper training in an academic setting.

380. “Journalistic Schools Help the Profession: They Lighten the Burden of Editors by Turning Out Partly Trained Men with Much Practical Knowledge and Many High Ideals, Declares Prof. Joseph S. Meyers.” *Editor & Publisher*, February 10, 1917, 14. Joseph S. Meyers of the School Journalism at Ohio State University in a speech titled “How Editors Are Developed Through a Journalistic School” to the Ohio City Editor’s Association. Journalism schools, Meyer said, must teach first the basics and “lastly, education in ethics and morals.”

381. “Creel Not Friendly to Censorship: Urges National Organization of Newspaper Men and Recognized Code of Ethics Before Ohio City Editors’ Association Meeting.” *Editor & Publisher*, January 26, 1918, 23. George Creel, head of the Committee on Public Information, told the editors attending the third annual convention of the Ohio City Editor’s Association that they were welcome to criticize his department when they believed it needed to be taken to task. “There should be a national association of newspaper men. Newspaper business in this country is unorganized and without a code of ethics. If a national organization obtained, I could go to it for advice.”

382. “New York Association of City Editors Organized Here: Officers and Directors Chosen and Campaign for Membership Launched – George Creel and William G. Shepherd Address Delegates – Next Meeting at Syracuse.” *Editor & Publisher*, August 31, 1918, 18. Of interest here is Creel’s re-iteration of his support for the creation of such associations for they could serve the same ethical purpose as the law and medical associations, *E&P* wrote, in “establishing standards of practice which would become binding upon all members of the craft.”

383. “Declares Organization is Needed Among Editorial Workers: Dr. Bleyer Makes Four Recom-
Dillon argued that journalism is not regarded as a profession because there was no licensure procedure – anyone can be a journalist – and it had no code of ethics governing it as the rules governing the recognized professions.


390. “Greater Stress on Ethics Urged by Journalism Teachers: Flint Tells Convention Instruction in Technique is Only Incidental – Beckman Heads Association of Teachers and Allen and Kirkwood Allied Organizations.” Editor & Publisher, January 6, 1922, 12. Prof. L.N. Flint of the Department of Journalism at the University of Kansas told the American Association of Teachers of Journalism conference that the journalism school that was most useful was the one that stressed the teaching of the ethics of the profession.


392. “Best Practices of Journalism Voiced in Oregon Code of Ethics: Accuracy Called Not Mere Absence of Misstatement, But Presence of All Vital Facts – ‘Let the Buyer Beware’ Barred as Business Tenet.” Editor & Publisher, February 11, 1922, 13. In early 1922, the Oregon State Editorial Association adopted a code of ethics which, Editor & Publisher lauded, “probably hits the highest note that has been sounded in American journalism.”

393. Flint, L.N. “What Shall the Ethics of Journalism Cover? No Profession is in Greater Need of an Established Guide for the Conduct of Its Members – The Right of Difference of Opinion Must Always be Considered in Cases of Individual.” Editor & Publisher, April 15, 1922, 5. 32-33. L.N. Flint, director of the Department of Journalism at the University of Kansas, was, Editor & Publisher noted, “one of the strongest advocates for an established Code of Ethics” for journalism.

394. “Harmless Fakes?” Editor & Publisher, April 15, 1922, 28. In the same issue, Editor & Publisher observed in an editorial titled “Harmless Fakes?” that never before in the history of journalism had
the question of ethics been more discussed among journalists.

395. “Editors Plan Professional Society; Will Organize Next Week: Casper Yost of St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Temporary Chairman, Has Invited Executives from Cities of Over 100,000 – 91 Editors Approve Idea – Meet at Waldorf April 25.” Editor & Publisher, April 22, 1922, 17. The journal noted that editorial executives planned to meet in a few days to “unite along professional lines for the first time in American newspaper history.”

396. “A Needed Organization.” Editor & Publisher, April 22, 1922, 56. Editorial regarding creation of ASNE argued: “There is no greater need in the profession of journalism than an organization such as that proposed.”

397. “Editors Form National Body of Their Own: Establishment of Ethical Standards and the Solution of Common Problems are Objects of American Society of Newspaper Editors – Casper S. Yost Elected President.” Editor & Publisher, April 29, 1922, 13, 34. The journal noted the formation of the new society and published its constitution.

398. Bucher, H. “Journalism Must Prepare Now to Serve a Better Educated Public: Great Change Occurring in Readers and Ten Years Hence Many Present Practices will not Do – English Journalists Awake to Needs.” Editor & Publisher, April 29, 1922, 26. Bucher noted that: “The education of the journalist in ethics, general knowledge and technique is becoming so important, so insistant that one cannot take up a copy of Editor and Publisher without seeing some reminder by a professor of journalism or newspaperman of this problem that awaits solution in the near future.”

399. “An Excellent Start.” Editor & Publisher, April 29, 1922, 78. The editorial page said the newly formed society should one day “occupy the same place in journalism that the Bar Association holds in the law.”


402. “A Glorious Promise.” Editor & Publisher, November 11 1922, 30. An editorial written in anticipation of the ASNE’s 1923 meeting said, in part: “The promise of journalism as a profession is glorious. With standards of practice rigidly written and sternly enforced, it will continue to draw to its ranks the kind of men whose achievements and personal sacrifices have dignified it in the past, and it will brand as unworthy those whose first end is service of selfish and not public interest.”

403. “Professional Spirit Ascendant.” Editor & Publisher, February 10, 1923, 30. From various “editorial and publishing associations” to ASNE’s proposed nationwide code of ethics, Editor & Publisher’s editorial page noted in February 1923 that in every part of America, journalists were working to put into “concrete form the principles of truth and of service to the reader – and to no one else – that have been slowly evolved during the past half century, and especially during the past twenty years.”


405. Murphy, Lawrence W. “Up to Press to Define and Enforce Freedom: An Effectively Administered Professional Code Would Prevent Vicious Editors’ Come-Back After Punishment by Denying Them the Right to Publish.” Editor & Publisher, March 10, 1923, 5, 6. A teacher of journalism at the University of North Dakota called for an effective code of ethics.

406. “The Oklahoma Bill.” Editor & Publisher, March 17, 1923, 28. Just a month before the ASNE met in 1923, Editor & Publisher, discussed a proposed Oklahoma law that would have created a board of state examiners to decide if a person was qualified to be a journalist. It argued that instead of such rash measures, the industry needed to adopt a nationwide code of ethics.

407. “Ethics in Journalism.” Editor & Publisher, March 23, 1923, 26. Editorial noted that there was a
growing demand among journalists to put their profession “upon a higher plane” and that this could be seen “in the increasing interest that is being taken in the subject of ethics.”

408. “Come to the Conventions,” *Editor & Publisher*. April 7, 1923, 28. In April 1923, *Editor & Publisher* encouraged attendance at the meetings of the newly-formed American Society of Newspaper Editors. Over the years, the trade journal noted, the American Newspaper Publishers’ Association had brought the business side of newspapers “to a high state of efficiency” and had helped it throw off “the shackles of advertising control.”

409. “Higher Ethical Standards Called for by Editor’s Society: Washington Convention Considers ‘Canons of Journalism’ – Plans Co-operation with Schools – Favors Newspapers Producing Own Features.” *Editor & Publisher*, April 28, 1923, 15. Article noting the opening of ASNE convention at which the Canons were adopted.


411. “The Profession of Journalism.” *Editor & Publisher*, June 5, 1923, 5. *Editor & Publisher* took no time to congratulate the ASNE adoption of the Canons of Journalism as a “beacon light of promise to those who would make it their means of serving mankind.”

Notes


5 Ibid., 48-49.


10 Ibid.


13 Ronald R. Rodgers, “'Journalism is a Loose-Jointed Thing': A Content Analysis of Editor & Publisher's Discussion of Journalistic Conduct Prior to the Canons of Journalism, 1901-1922,” paper presented to the Newspaper Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication at the 2005 AEJMC Convention in San Antonio, Texas.


17 See Mary M. Cronin, “Trade Press Roles in Promoting Journalistic Professionalism, 1884-1917,” *Journal of Mass Media Ethics* 8, 4 (1993) : 227-238. Explores Editor & Publishers’ campaign from its first publication for a more honest, unbiased, accurate, truthful and professional newspaper industry. See also Marion Tuttle Marzolf, *Civilizing Voices: American Press Criticism 1880-1950* (New York: Longman, 1991). Book explores standards of newspapers and the criticism of them over a 70-year period. Briefly discusses the Canons, and also explores the background of calls for codes of ethics in the newspaper industry previous to the Canons. See also Patrick Lee Plaisance, “A Gang of Pecksniffs Grows Up: The Evolution of Journalism Ethics Discourse in *The Journalist* and *Editor & Publisher*, a paper presented to the annual meeting of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Kansas City, Missouri, August 2003. This also explores the trade journals’ connection to a growing ideal of professionalizing the press, which, at its heart, is an attempt to answer the criticisms of those who point to its inaccuracies, lies, bias, and influence from the business office.

18 "A Valuable Table,” *Editor & Publisher*, March 29, 1913, 10.

19 "Newspaper Trade Press Alone Tells ‘What the Other Fellow is Doing,’" *Editor & Publisher*, June 6, 1916, 1520.


21 "Henry Watterson, Good Judge and Master of Style,” *Editor & Publisher*, July 16, 1910, 8.