

the very low scale of one assistant, throws on ourselves so much of the drudgery, we could not by any possibility make up our leeway, and we had no alternative but a long-delayed publication, or the present expedient, and the latter we thought would be most acceptable to our readers . . . If any of our friends should ever be caught in a like way, we hope they may fare as well as we did at Waimea Farm, and some day we trust the Governor will put a stop to these adverse chances, by giving us good bridges.⁵²

Despite the above production difficulties, Elliott's presswork is generally good. 'The Elliott printing was excellent, and in lay-out, quality and variety of type and accuracy of type-setting, the *Examiner* was superior to most of the early newspapers.'⁵³ But Elliott's production was not perfect. The issues on flimsy paper are barely readable, as Elliott was well aware, and for which he apologised. Some of the other execrably printed issues include part of the front and back pages of volume 12, no. 623 (11 February 1854), and parts of the inner forme of volume 2, no. 60 (29 April 1843). There are several instances of erratic numbering of issues, careless pagination and innumerable issues printed without printers imprint.⁵⁴

Printing a newspaper using the most traditional techniques, with uncertain labour and stationery supply and rudimentary infrastructural facilities, is likely to have considerable effect on its management of news, and in a subsequent paper Elliott's treatment of news reporting will be discussed.

REFERENCES

This is a slightly modified section of work presented in the Department of Librarianship at the Victoria University of Wellington in partial fulfillment of requirements for the Master of Arts degree.

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- 3 G. M. Meiklejohn, *Early Conflicts of Press and Government: a Story of the First New Zealand Herald and the Foundation of Auckland* (Auckland, 1953), p.20.
- 4 'First Newspaper was Printed in England', *Nelson Evening Mail: Centennial Supplement, 1866-1966* (5 March 1966), p.14. According to Scholefield (p.156), the *Nelson Advertiser* was first published on 6 September, 1841.
- 5 *Nelson Evening Mail: Centennial Supplement, 1866-1966*, p.14.
- 6 *Nelson Examiner* (NE), 3 April 1847, p.18, col.1.
- 7 *Lists of Passengers to Nelson, 1841-50* (Bett Collection), 2 vols (ca 1950, typescript copy in A.T.L.), 1:12.
- 8 Scholefield, p.156.
- 9 NE, 3 April 1847, p.19, col.3.
- 10 NE, 3 April 1847, p.18, cols.1-2.
- 11 *Wellington Independent*, 22 December 1849.
- 12 Patrick Day, *The Political Role of the Early New Zealand Press*: paper presented to the Conference of the Sociological Association of Australia and New Zealand, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, November 1981 (Working Paper no. 14), p.17.