

were at that time full of fellow countrymen¹⁵ and shipping routes made that coast a natural landfall. Ivess probably found employment rapidly as the manager of the *New Zealand Celt*, the Irish Catholic Party's newspaper whose proprietor John Manning was charged with seditious libel for erecting a memorial to the Fenian martyrs of Manchester in the Hokitika Cemetery.¹⁶ It may have been in this heady political atmosphere that the seeds of Ivess's political ambitions were planted and nurtured. By 1870 Ivess had definitely established a printing business at Hokitika in partnership with George Tilbrook, as shown by advertisements in the first issue of the *Tomahawk* (5 March 1870) and subsequent issues. This heavily satirical weekly and its successor the *Lantern* must also have encouraged Ivess in his political aspirations, for they relied on criticism of local and national political events for their effect. Even at this early stage in his career Ivess demonstrated a propensity for attracting legal action, being named as a defendant in a libel action in the *Tomahawk* (16 and 30 April 1870). To be fair, Ivess was not alone among newspapermen in being sued frequently. Conservative libel laws were retained in New Zealand long after they had been redrafted in England and resulted in frequent law-suits of which Ivess attracted his fair share.¹⁷

Ivess appears not to have had a proprietary interest in any newspaper up to this date, perhaps because he had not amassed enough capital to purchase a share. He may have been part proprietor of the *Westland Independent* at Hokitika for a brief period, but the evidence is insufficient to be certain about this. He next became part proprietor of the *Inangahua Herald*, the first newspaper to be established in the new gold-mining town of Reefton. Letters exchanged among the partners of the *Inangahua Herald* in 1871 and 1872 allow some of the steps in its establishment to be traced.¹⁸ Ivess had visited Reefton in late 1871 and had purchased a business site and gathered strong promises of support and advertising. The prospects of success were very favourable, despite some difficulties in obtaining plant and in having it shipped to Reefton, and heavier than expected expenses. Ivess arrived with his family in mid January 1872, and the first issue was published on 3 February 1872.

A close reading of the *Inangahua Herald* for the period of Ivess's proprietorship shows quite clearly how he used it from its inception to bring himself to the attention of its readers. He is regularly noted as being elected to membership of numerous local committees, ranging from one to investigate forming a public company to construct a tramway between Reefton and Murray Creek (20 March 1872), to the Permanent Committee to Administer the Sick and Destitute Relief Fund (8 May 1872), later renamed the Local Hospital Committee (11 May 1872). His letters to the editor include one on the contentious issue of separation from Nelson Province (3 July 1872). Ivess contrived some mention of himself in almost every issue of the *Inangahua Herald*