

Altogether thirty-six issues were published in the first year of operation from September 10, 1877 to a year later, and thirty-eight in the interval between September, 1878 and the final issue in January, 1880. Fortunately all these issues have been collected and saved for posterity and can now be perused on request in the Provincial Library in the Legislative Buildings. The librarians there are particularly proud of this possession and they never fail to warn those permitted to handle them to be extra careful to avoid damage as they are extremely precious and though they may have little idea of the contents, they instinctively feel they had acquired something of great value, which will steadily increase in value with the passing years.

The Framfari was the first Icelandic publication to serve the people of that race on the American Continent and examination of it today in the Provincial Library shows that it has merit and quality beyond what one might expect of that day. It had four printed pages, each considerably smaller than those we find in the modern weekly periodicals and all the contents are meat and substance because no space is allotted to advertisement or light humor. The printing has evidently been done by expert craftsmen because it is clear and accurate.

Much of the world news has been gleaned from Winnipeg dailies and needless to say it is up to date and instructive to people in the outlying parts of Manitoba. In addition, there is a great deal of interesting news from the other parts of Canada. There is also a rather insignificant part-column devoted to local affairs in the New Iceland settlement with greatest emphasis on the Icelandic River, the home of the journal. The Editorials are unsigned so that one has to guess the author but as only two men were involved that should not be too difficult.

It was about the time of the first issues that the religious controversy erupted in the settlement and as the Framfari was extremely partisan on that issue the articles and editorials were from the pen of Halldor Briem. His opponent the Reverend Pall Thorlakson was given space to reply. And as both men were well educated and capable to defend their views, the writings were of first class calibre.

It has been claimed by some who witnessed and lived in the period of this heated and divisive disputation between the religious leaders of the colony, that the extremely biased views proclaimed so vehemently by the editor of the Framfari had served to destroy the paper by alienating the support of Reverend Thorlakson's men. Such could not possibly have been the case, as records show that seventy-eight out of the one hundred and ten capital shares at ten dollars each were fully paid and the other thirty-two were half paid. Default in payment by the subscribers was the main fault and half of them were in Iceland, unaffected by the dispute and in that direction the response was the poorest. Knowing too the intense interest that such controversies and duels by pen stir among Icelandic people, it is more likely that instead of cancelling sub-