



FIFTY YEARS A PUBLISHER

IN THE THRIVING CITY of Lawrence, Kansas, a few weeks ago was enacted a drama sans dramatics; a saga barren of fanfare, of huzzahing, yet, an occurrence of such profound and far-reaching significance that it may well serve as a symbol for the fierce unity that welds this nation when only thus can the American Way survive.

No parades, no cheering, no brass bands marked this event. Just an elderly man going to his office. A commonplace routine, when viewed on the surface, but beneath the surface gleams the unquenchable flame that is the American Way . . . the Way of free enterprise, of free speech, of a free press, of Liberty . . . of America itself.

The elderly man was W. C. Simons, the occasion the fiftieth anniversary of his career as a publisher in the city of Lawrence. The significance, the symbolism that this quiet event embraces is found in that career, typical of thousands upon the American scene, the success that an able man may achieve in this land of freedom.

Fifty years ago W. C. Simons and his brother, L. A. Simons, came to Lawrence and entered into competition with six established newspapers. On a capital of \$50 the brothers ob-

tained credit on an old press, and their first paper, *The Daily and Weekly World* was issued in March, 1892.

From this precarious foothold, through the following decades, was built the present *Journal-World*, an outstanding newspaper property with which is combined a prosperous general business of printing, binding, and manufacture of blank books.

As his paper forged to the front in Kansas publishing circles, so did the man become a leader in the state's business and community activities, his kindly interest and understanding nature proving an inspiration to youthful journalists and craftsmen.

One of these youngsters is now editor of *THE INLAND PRINTER*, who, awakened and encouraged by Mr. Simons, came to be recognized as a leading typographer while plant superintendent of the *Journal-World* from 1910 to 1914.

Appearing with her husband in the accompanying illustration is Mrs. Simons, of whom the publisher says:

"She has been my loyal and encouraging partner through all the years of ups and downs. Her help and her confidence did more than anything else to get us over the many rough spots along the way."