

are now under the control of a central authority, The Icelandic Sporting Union (*Íþróttasamband Íslands*), founded in 1912.

### BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS, AND PERIODICALS

The art of printing reached Iceland about 1530, when Jón Arason (the last catholic bishop in Iceland) had a press established at Hólar, where the *Breviarium Nidarosiense* was printed in 1534. The press was not, however, much used till some time after the Reformation, and up to the middle of the nineteenth century there was, as a rule, only one press in the country; but since that time their number has been gradually increasing, and at present there are several presses both in the capital and in some of the other towns.

In a country with about 106 000 inhabitants, book production can hardly be expected to be a very lucrative trade; yet there are not a few publishers in Iceland, and the annual number of books issued on various subjects is quite large when compared with the number of population.

The first Icelandic newspaper appeared about the middle of last century; it was a fortnightly, but was soon changed to a weekly. The first daily paper, started in 1896, was soon discontinued, but another began to appear in 1911 and is still published.

The majority of Icelandic newspapers represent different shades of political opinion, and can therefore be grouped according to political parties.\*) Papers supporting the Independent party are: *Morgunblaðið* and *Visir* (dailies), *Ísafold og Vörður* and *Stormur* (weeklies), all published in Reykjavík; *Íslendingur* (a weekly, Akureyri); *Vesturland* (a weekly, Ísafjörður); *Hæfir* (a weekly, Seyðisfjörður); *Siglfirðingur* (a weekly, Siglufjörður); *Viðir* (a weekly, Vestmannaeyjar). Progressive or agrarian papers are: *Timinn* and *Ingólfur* (weeklies, Reykjavík); *Dagur* (a weekly, Akureyri). Labour or socialist papers are: *Althýðublaðið* (a daily with a weekly edition, Reykjavík); *Verkamaðurinn* (a weekly, Akureyri); *Skutull* (a weekly, Ísafjörður); *Mjöllnir* (a weekly, Siglufjörður); *Vikan* (a weekly, Vestmannaeyjar); and *Jafnaðarmaðurinn* (a fortnightly, Nes). *Lögrétta* (a weekly, Reykjavík); and *Brúin* (a weekly, Hafnarfjörður) do not belong to any of the political parties.

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\*) At present the party distribution (in Althingi) is as follows: the progressive or agrarian party 20 members, the independent party (an amalgamation of moderate conservatives and liberals) 17, and the socialist or labour party 5.