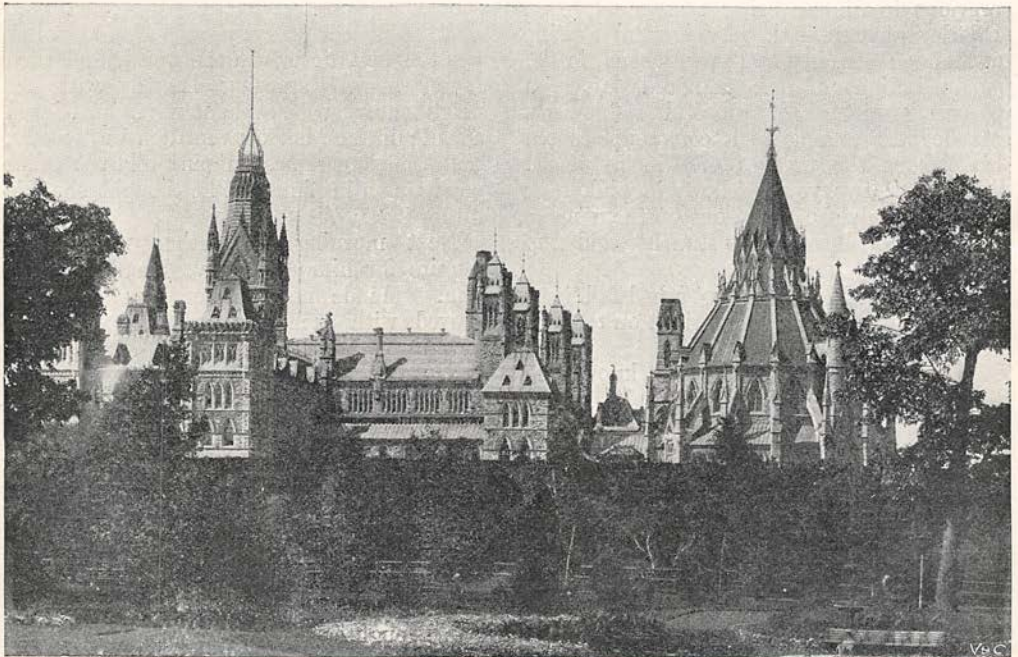


CANADIAN EMPIRE-BUILDERS OF TO-DAY

BY JAMES RAMSAY.

THE vicissitudes of Canadian government, from the days when Jacques Cartier passed up the Gulf of St. Lawrence, down to the last speech delivered in the House of Commons at Ottawa, make up a history of deeds so daring and dashing that it reads like a novel. It is, perhaps, a lapse from the sublime to the ordinary to couple Wolfe or Frontenac with Sir John Macdonald or Sir Wilfrid Laurier; but the government of this great country, almost as big as Europe, must always be something of

the Mother Country and the United States in an alliance of hearts. The handshakings of his commissioners at Washington and Quebec are uprooting jealousies and misunderstandings which have flourished for a century. Whether the great alliance comes off or not, Canada can claim to be an experienced party in making unions. Originally it was split up in government and authority. French, Dutch, English, Indians, Catholics and Protestants, Church and State, squabbled, fought, made peace and fought again. Nova Scotia,



THE LIBRARY, DOMINION PARLIAMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA.

a romance. In its sea-like lakes, myriads of islands, rushing waterfalls, impenetrable woods, untold mineral wealth, and undreamt-of fertility, Canada retains to this day that strange fascination of a virgin land—the paradise of the high-spirited youth, the El Dorado of the venturesome wanderer. But Jack Canuck—the Canadian pet name, as John Bull is ours—has set himself a very serious task. He takes a utilitarian as well as a romantic view of his Dominion, and regards himself as the link which is to bind

Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario had different governments and interests. But in 1864 thirty-three delegates, headed by Sir John Macdonald, assisted by his very remarkable fellow-Scot and opponent, George Brown—afterwards assassinated—met in Quebec and settled matters; and now 3,000,000 English and 2,000,000 French live in peace under the same Premier.

The government of this vast Dominion is largely in the hands of men who are sub-

stantial lawyers, doctors, farmers, and retired gentlemen, and a very striking proportion of the provincial members of parliament are

for five years, and each member receives £200 as a sessional allowance, with travelling expenses to and from Ottawa; but he forfeits £1 12s. for every day's absence beyond a certain limit fixed each session. Ministers of the Ontario Government receive a salary of £800, except the Premier, who gets £1,400, and members are paid £120 each session. In Quebec the Premier gets £1,000, ministers £800, and members, both of the Legislative Council and Assembly, £160. The Premier of Nova Scotia is paid £800, ministers £640, and members of both chambers, £100. New Brunswick allows £420, £340, and £60 respectively. The scale for Manitoba is practically the same as for Nova Scotia; British Columbia is the same as Quebec, except that members of the legislature get £120 instead of £160. Prince Edward Island allows a



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THE EARL OF MINTO.
New Governor-General of Canada.

office-bearers in their various churches. There is a caution and stolidity about the Canadian representative which makes him more like our own familiar M.P. than the Congress representative across the border. He will engineer the union of the English-speaking peoples if anyone can.

The constitution which he obeys is a federation under which each province has home rule, and Dominion affairs are controlled by a Parliament of two Houses at Ottawa. Dominion ministers have salaries of £1,400 per annum, except the Premier, who gets an extra £200. The senators are appointed for life by the Crown. They are eighty-one in number, and are paid sessional allowances and railway fares. The House of Commons consists of 213 members, elected



Photo by]

[Chancellor, Dublin.

THE COUNTESS OF MINTO.

modest £260 for all ministers and £35 for members, whilst the North-West Territories' representatives enjoy £100 per session. Ontario and Prince Edward Island have a suffrage that is practically household; Manitoba and the North-West Territories have a suffrage that is all but manhood; Quebec has a property qualification, with teachers voting by virtue of their educational attainments; Nova Scotia has abandoned manhood suffrage, and gives a vote only to those assessed on certain scales; New Brunswick makes up its registers on a similar plan, but adds priests and clergymen, teachers and professors.

At the head of this complex system is the ornamental representative of the Sovereign, when this was written, Lord Aberdeen, but now Lord Minto, who knows Ottawa and Rideau Hall well, and who will now find his previous military secretaryship to Lord Lansdowne of great service. The power of the Governor-General, when judiciously used, is nominal, and springs from dinners rather than from a sceptre. He lives at Rideau Hall, just outside Ottawa. "The sight of Rideau Hall did lower our spirits just for a little," wrote Lady Dufferin on her arrival to take up her residence there. "The road to it is rough and ugly; the house appears to me to be at the land's end, and there is no view whatever from it." Since then things have improved a little; the house remains ugly and inconvenient, but the Princess Louise had a vista cut through the trees, commanding a fine view of Ottawa—something after the style of Sir William Harcourt's vistas at Malwood, which open up such pretty views of Southampton. But no tenant should com-

plain of Rideau Hall. It is on the outskirts of one of the finest cities in the world, and a few winters spent in the Canadian capital give variety and zest to life. Lord Minto will find himself surrounded with men who differ with him materially in political opinions, but his social accomplishments are just the equipment required of a Governor-General of Canada. Lady Minto's zest for winter sports, especially skating, will not only find a good field for exercise at Ottawa, but will be found to be as sure a way to the hearts of Canadians as her husband's after-dinner and ceremonial speeches.

At the head of the democracy of the Dominion is Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Premier, who is also the most familiar of all Canadian politicians to the people of this country. In Canada, Sir Wilfrid represents the much-to-be-desired union of French blood, British patriotism, and Catholic faith; and when you hear him speak in his somewhat old-fashioned style, his pleasant lisp, his exquisitely turned French accent, you have before you an eloquent reminder of the long struggle



Photo by]

[Topley, Ottawa.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR WILFRID LAURIER.
Premier of Canada.

between France and ourselves for supremacy on the banks of the St. Lawrence. There was a good reason why at the Jubilee Sir Wilfrid should have been selected both by the Queen and the President of the French Republic for special honours. The Lauriers were amongst the first settlers in *La Nouvelle France*, and their distinguished descendant has been lawyer, editor, and director of an insurance company before stepping into the forefront of politics. In 1871 he was returned to the Quebec Assembly by one of those country constituencies, Drummond and Athabasca, the people of which have hardly

changed at all since they left their French homes three hundred years ago. Laurier had been marked out very early for public life, and on the morning after his first speech in the Quebec House, it is said that the city asked itself, "*Quel est cet étranger?*" When he appeared at Ottawa and made his maiden speech on Louis Riel, voluntarily changing his native French into English, he showed as complete a command over the one language as the other, and the impression he made was a repetition of the Quebec success. Since that time he has represented Quebec East, another very French constituency. When chosen to lead the Liberals, he was taken very much on trust so far as administrative ability was concerned, the only office which he had previously held having been that of Minister of Inland Revenue. His strong points were his excellence upon the platform and the faculty he has for making many personal friends. In office he has proved himself to be an acute diplomatist. He has had an extra share of sheer good luck, as few Canadian Premiers have had a Jubilee to attend, or their negotiations with the United States made harmonious by an American-Spanish war. But when the luck is allowed for, Sir Wilfrid's success must be



THE HON. LOUIS HENRY DAVIES, Q.C.

The two most trusted supporters of the Premier are the Hon. Louis Henry Davies, Q.C., and Sir Richard Cartwright. Both are likely to become conspicuous in connection with the settlement of the present difficulties between Canada and the United States. The Hon. Benjamin Davies is a child of Prince Edward Island, and is naturally interested in fishery matters. The greater part of his record relates to the affairs of his native province. He is president of its bank, he has defended its fishery interests; to him, more than to any other single man, is the credit due of having ended the old, pernicious leasehold system of land tenure on the Island, which kept the peasantry poor and discontented. Moreover, he has been the Solicitor-General, leader of the Opposition, Attorney-General, and Prime Minister of the Island. He is regarded as a safe man, and when there is anything of a diplomatic nature in the wind, the Canadian takes for granted that Mr. Davies is to have his finger in the pie. He is one of the youngest of the important men in the Laurier Government, which, probably owing to the long period of Liberal opposition, has very few young men in it. In the Premier's absence, Mr. Davies leads the House, and is regarded by everybody as the Premier-in-reserve of the Liberal party.

The third of this trinity of rulers is Sir Richard Cartwright, a member of the old

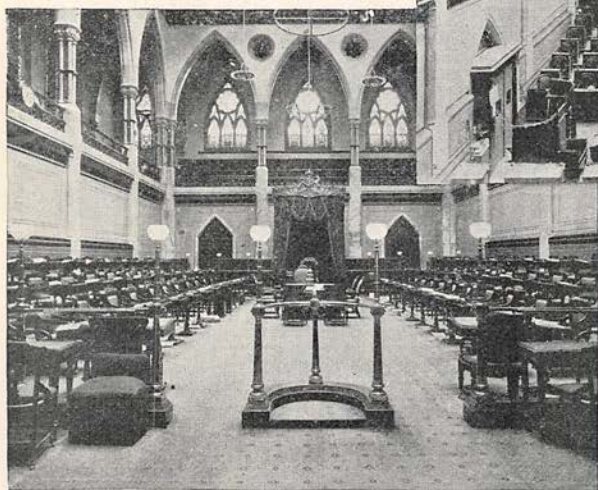


SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

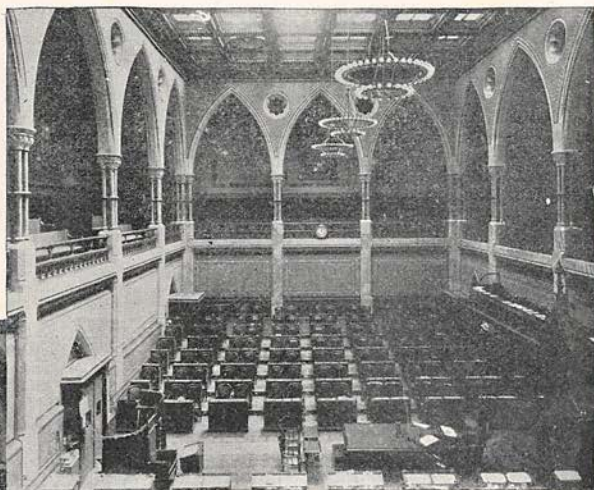
still attributed mainly to his remarkable charm of personality, his silvery tongue, and his splendid courage.

Canadian Assembly, and one of the fathers of the Dominion. Sir Richard is the grandson of a United England Loyalist—the name given to those people who crossed the Canadian border when the States finally severed themselves from all allegiance to George III., and who, in Canada, are spoken of as the U. E. Loyalists. His grandfather was a member of the old Parliament of Upper Canada from its first sitting in 1792, and his father was chaplain to the forces in Kingston. We may, therefore, regard his connection with official life as hereditary. He was born in 1835, and came to Dublin to finish his education. Since then he has been most loyal to the seat of his family, Kingston, where he is in business as a solicitor, and has as partner a brother of the well-known Canadian poetess and novelist, Miss Machar. It is twenty-six years since he was first returned to Parliament. There is nothing

Premier of Nova Scotia, and an ex-member of a dozen or so bodies that have been charged to make inquiries, publish reports, and hold briefs upon almost everything that Canada has ever taken an interest in. Like Sir Richard Cartwright, he is a father of the Dominion, and he is also one of the pioneers of Canadian railway enterprise. In fact, the question is, What has Sir Charles not been in? Sir Charles himself would say, perhaps, "luck," thinking of the more immediate past, with his short tenure of the Premier-



SENATE CHAMBER, DOMINION GOVERNMENT, OTTAWA.



HOUSE OF COMMONS, DOMINION PARLIAMENT, OTTAWA.

visionary about Sir Richard; everything is sound, solid, and experimental. In affairs he is the cautious man, in debate he is the sledge-hammer. His first term of office began in 1873, and ended with the Liberal rout five years afterwards. He is only now in his second term.

The leader of the Opposition is the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., a doctor trained in Edinburgh, a past President of the Canadian Medical Society, an LL.D. of both Cambridge and Edinburgh, an ex-

ship, and his far from successful leadership of the Opposition. His long official life has, perhaps, spoiled him for the leadership of a party, for Sir Charles is a man who likes his own way, and thinks nothing of quarrelling with a governor-general who does not quite agree with him. Sir Charles's portly aspect and combative manner make him the lion of the Ottawa Parliament, and

there is no better sport to be had in the Dominion House of Commons than to listen to a grand attack and defence between the heavy artillery of Sir Charles Tupper and the light but deadly guns of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Sir Charles comes of an old Saxony family which, after settling in Holland and then in England at Sandwich, sent an offshoot to America which was planted first in Massachusetts and then in Nova Scotia, Sir Charles's native province. He is seventy-seven years of age, and has

been in some parliament or another for over forty years.

The Mr. Chamberlain of Dominion politics, and the best debater at Ottawa, is Mr. George Eulas Foster. But he is a much more widely read man than Mr. Chamberlain, and his speeches are generally distinguished by a certain fineness of literary grace. He is one of those who tell you that the classics have not only been a great pleasure but of great use to him; and he is even more at home in his library than on the floor of the House of Commons. His supreme vice as a public man is that he speaks too frequently and at too great length, and has a bad habit of indulging in prophecy. Mr. Foster is a keen cyclist and a great fisher. His first portfolio was that of Marine and Fisheries. He has been Minister of Finance since then, and has led the House when the Premier, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, was in the Senate. At the present time he is First Lieutenant under Sir Charles Tupper.

grasp of the cold-blooded politician who now rules her with a rod of iron?" The Mr. Davin whom Ireland was then supposed to want was a member of the Canadian Parliament, and is so still. He is one of the features of the House, and is its raciest speaker; Sir John Macdonald classed him amongst the four greatest Canadian orators. He is the Prince

Rupert of the Conservatives, is always ready to fight, and is generally sure of coming off best; if he does not, he never sees it. His literary allusions and style are superb. No man takes Mr. Davin's literary analogies, historical illustrations, and perfervid speeches so seriously as he does himself. When a bill amending the Dominion Lands Act was before the House, the Deputy Speaker asked if it was necessary for him to do more than call out the number of the clauses. "No!" shouted Mr. Davin, "I have read them." "That was sufficient," said the genial member for Assiniboia, telling the incident some time afterwards; "the bill went through with a run." This delightful child of Erin was born in Tipperary in 1843, and is a member of the Middle



Photo by [Rice, Washington.]

THE HON. SIR CHARLES TUPPER, BART.
Leader of the Opposition.



MR. GEORGE EULAS FOSTER.

"The Joseph Chamberlain of Canadian politics."



Photo by [Jarvis, Ottawa.]

MR. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN.



Photo by [Topley, Ottawa.]

SIR JOHN BOURINOT.

Clerk to the Commons.

Fourteen years ago the *Spectator* asked, "Why do not men of Mr. Davin's stamp arise in Ireland and wrest Ireland from the

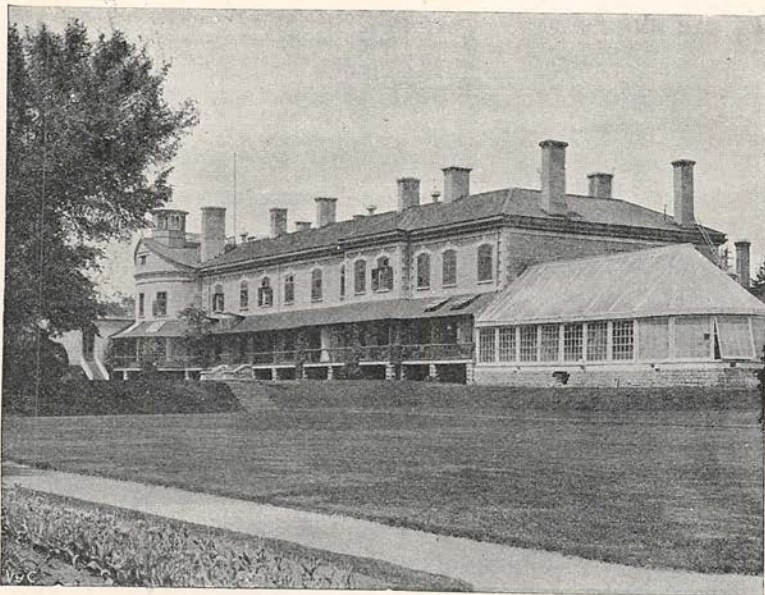
in 1843, and is a member of the Middle

Temple. During the Franco-German War he was war correspondent to the *Standard*, and was wounded at the siege of Montmedy. Now he does nothing more dangerous than break horses on his ranch and ride a bicycle on the rough roads of the North-west. He had a narrow squeak at the last election, for the electors of West Assiniboia were evenly divided upon his merits, 1,502 voting for him, and 1,502 against him. The vote of a friendly returning officer settled the matter, and Ottawa still enjoys her Nicholas Flood Davin. He has done yeoman work of a serious kind on behalf of the education of Indian children and the development of the North-west, and he was secretary to the Government Commission appointed to report upon the Canadian-Pacific Railway proposals. But he stands for the genial and oratorical in Canadian public life, and if ever that majority of one is wiped out, his opponents will straightway forgive him and welcome him back to Ottawa.

Although not a member of Parliament, Sir John George Bourinot is as indispensable to Canadian politics as the Governor-General himself, and no sketch, however thumb-nail, of Ottawa politicians would be complete without him. He is Clerk to the Commons, historian of the Parliament, and exponent of its place in the Constitution. He is in

Ottawa what Sir Erskine May used to be in London. Everybody in Canada knows of him, and everyone refers you to him if you put awkward political questions. On one side he is Irish, and on the other Huguenot. Born in Cape Breton in 1837, he went to Toronto University and carried everything before him. He adopted literature as a profession and parliamentary reporting for an income; struck up an acquaintance and friendship with Sir Charles Tupper (then only Mr.); went to Ottawa after Confederation as shorthand writer to the Senate; changed to the Lower House and worked his way up to be its chief clerk in 1880. His literary work has been prodigious, and is mostly historical and constitutional. In Ottawa he is everybody's right-hand man, from the Governor-General to the President of the Society of Arts. He is one of our youngest knights, having received his honours on the last Queen's birthday.

Behind these men stand a goodly company of Provincial Premiers, Leaders of Oppositions, and Administrators, mostly lawyers and nearly all elders in their kirks, for Canada is more Scottish than any other place outside Scotland itself. But it is to the keeping of these statesmen in Ottawa that we have entrusted our flag, and that the Canadian electors have given their sovereign authority.



RIDEAU HALL, OTTAWA, THE RESIDENCE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA.