

The Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island in Session, 1908.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GEO. H. COOKE.

## Demands of the Island Province

SINCE 1891, the Liberals have controlled the provincial government of the Province of Prince Edward Island—the tiniest province of Confederation, whose hundred thousand inhabitants are mostly busy farmers. Under Premier Peters junior and senior, and Premier Hassard, the Liberals have had seventeen years of supremacy. Now by a narrow margin, they are to have another four.

Prince Edward Island was six years late coming into Confederation, and when it came it brought some characteristics of its own. One of these was a two-house Parliament, an upper and a lower chamber. Later it was decided to abolish the bit of patronage known as the upper house, but this was also characteristically done. In each riding there are two members elected, one for the assembly and the other as a councillor. Not all those who vote for the assemblyman, may vote for the councillor. Only the property-owners have the latter privilege. Yet when the gentlemen are elected, there is no apparent difference in their privileges or their importance. Moreover, the two houses now meet as one. It was thus, by a temporising measure that this province with one-fourth the population of the city of Montreal, merged its two important Legislative Bodies.

In the House of Assembly there are fifteen assemblymen and fifteen councillors. These are divided into Liberals led by the Hon. Francis Hassard and the Conservatives led by Mr. J. A. Mathieson, a son-in-law of the Hon. David Laird. These two parties met in December, 1904, in mortal combat and the Liberals won. Hon. Arthur Peters led the victorious party in the conflict, Mr. Hassard succeeding him in January last. The quadrennial battle occurred again in November, and again the Liberals won, though with a small majority. Whether Mr. Hassard's slight numerical superiority will enable him to withstand Mr. Mathieson's attacks for another four years remains to be seen.

The Liberals in the campaign which has just closed promised if elected, to press vigorously for the long-delayed fishery award, for a restoration of the Island's parliamentary representation at Ottawa to its original standing, for more equitable transportation rates, and for *The Tunnel*. The Conservatives were equally ingenious and vigorous in promising to ask Father, in fact to demand from Father, much and more. They would ask for the fishery award, for the ancient representation, for the lower transportation rates, for the fifteen-million-dollar Tunnel and also for a few other favours. These consist of the small sum of three million dollars which was spent on the Prince

Edward Island railway before 1873, with interest since that date. They would also ask for several million dollars compensation for non-fulfilment of the terms of union regarding keeping continuous communication between the Island and the mainland. If a storm comes up and the mail boats get stuck in the ice for twenty-four hours, the people make a note of it and estimate how much damages they should get. Every winter there are delays of this kind, and they have whole ledgers full of estimated damages. Then these Conservatives would ask for the Island's share of all public domain granted to other provinces since 1873. This would

Fisheries' award .....	\$ 1,000,000
Tunnel .....	15,000,000
Cost of railway .....	3,144,000
Interest on same, 35 years .....	5,000,000
Damages non-communication ...	5,000,000
Compensation public lands .....	50,000,000
Increased subsidy (capitalised) ..	10,000,000

\$89,144,000

If these claims could be made good, every man, woman and child in Prince Edward Island would get \$890. Every family of five would be entitled to \$4,450. Or if the provincial authorities did not make the distribution but simply paid out the interest to each inhabitant, it would mean an annual income for each man, woman and child of \$35.60 a year in perpetuity; or an annuity of \$175 for each head of a household.

In Prince Edward Island it is more blessed to ask than to give. Asking is part of the provincial business, and has not the Ottawa Government said, "Ask and ye shall receive"? Fortunately, the Liberal Government was returned to power and the Dominion should now be able to settle all these claims for fifty millions at the outside. If Sir Wilfrid will hurry, they might take twenty-five millions cash down. If he waits until Mr. Mathieson gets into power, it is eighty-nine millions at least—that is, if Mr. Mathieson is serious, which it is difficult to believe.

### Who are the Canadians.

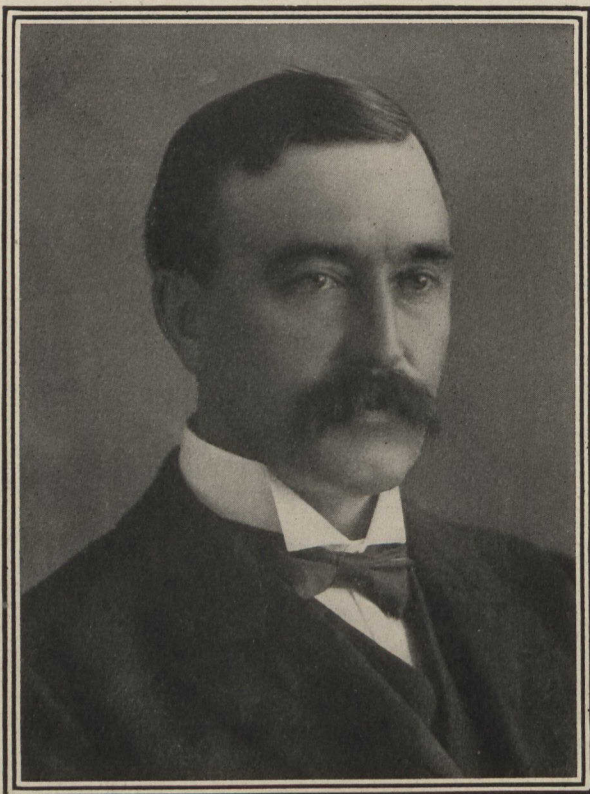
Editor CANADIAN COURIER,  
Toronto, Ont.

Sir,—In your issue of November 21st you refer editorially to an objection raised in connection with your voting contest to decide who are the ten biggest men in Canada. I quite agree with you that it is well that we should keep in our mind and favour the youths who have gone out from Canada and made a name for themselves, but I echo the objection of your other correspondent. I considered the point when drawing up my list which you publish in your last issue. You asked your readers to vote on not "the Ten Greatest Canadians" but "the Ten Greatest Men in Canada." I contend that if a man is not domiciled in Canada he is not eligible for the category assigned by you. Dr. Osler, Sir Percy Girouard, Lord Mount Stephen, Sir Gilbert Parker are no more eligible for your category than J. J. Hill, Jacob Gould Schurman, Lord Elgin, Thomas W. Lawson, Bonar Law or others who have at one time been Canadians, and in a sense are Canadians now, but who are not in any sense *in Canada*. A man isn't a horse because he has been born in a stable.

Yours truly,

J.W.

November 20th, 1908.



Hon. D. A. McKinnon,

probably figure out at about twenty-five or fifty millions according to the basis of the argument. Also a special subsidy for Prince Edward Island such as was given to British Columbia, and for an increase in the regular subsidy.

In short, if the Conservatives had been elected they would have asked as follows: