Dr. McKenna.

A Biographical Sketch.

McKENNA, JAMES ANDREW JOSEPH, born at Charlottetown, P.E.I., on the 1st January, 1862, is the son of the late James McKenna, an old time leading merchant of Prince Edward Island, by his wife Rose Duffy. He was educated at St. Patrick's School and St. Dunstan's College there, as well as privately under the Very Reverend Dr. Chaisson.

His first venture was in a clerical position on the staff of the P. E. 1. railway, which he soon left to serve a term in one of the leading law firms of the Maritime Provinces—that of which the late Mr. Justice Hodgins was then the head. From railroading and law, Mr. McKenna turned to what was, for him, the more congenial realm of journalism, and became for a time leading writer on the "Herald" which had been made famous down by the sea under the editorship of a brilliant eastern writer and ripe scholar, Dr. John Caven.

In March, 1886 he left his island home crossing the straits of Northumberland in the unique ice boats that are at times propelled through lolly and at times dragged on their shod keels over the ice. His intention then was to devote himself to literature in New York but he decided to take a look first at the Canadian Capital; and in the Canadian Capital he met his fate.

He married on the 7th August, 1888, in old St. Joseph's Church, Ottawa, Mary Josephine, daughter of the late P. E. Ryan, an old and highly esteemed citizen of the Capital. Three sons and five daughters have been born of the union.

In the spring of 1886 he entered the Dominion Civil Service at Ottawa. He first served in the justice department under the late Sir John Thompson and, during the controversy over the execution of Louis Riel, prepared the "Riel Papers" for Parliament. From the Justice department he stepped into the service of the late Sir John Macdonald as that statesman's private secretary for Indian Affairs; and when the Indian port-folio was passed to the late Hon. Thomas White, he continued in a similar position under him.