

the result of the general contest. When he put upon the programme of his Government, in 1879, the encouragement of butter and cheese-making, the Opposition greeted the declaration to that effect by bursts of laughter. While his adversaries could not rise above the level of treating the matter as a joke, Mr. Chapleau saw far enough to know that he was gifting the Province of Quebec with one of the most flourishing industries she will ever have.

No wonder then that a man who so uniformly and so consistently put at the disposal of his country the benefit of his precious qualities, should to-day be the idol of the people. Unheard-of successes were won by him, such as the complete reversal of popular feeling in a parish by a single discourse, as at St. Guillaume in 1877, which entailed the defeat in Arthabaska of the Honourable Mr. Laurier; and the people remained fascinated by these achievements which are traditional.

He has been the champion of railways in this country, and his eloquent word it was which revived in the Provincial Legislature the old subsidy to the North Shore Railway and obtained one for the Northern Colonization Road, thus taking the original steps toward a national railway policy.

He had his share in contributing to the success of these financially perilous enterprises; and he can boast of having directly brought about the building of five lines of railways, the Laurentides, the Pontiac, and the continuation of the St. Jérôme, by his active and persistent co-operation, and the St. Eustache and Joliette roads, by his official and personal protection.

Adversaries in search of arguments have represented him as a restless, ambitious spirit, and have even wished to make him out an intriguer. Nothing can be more false. When, in 1875, he had only to say a word to overthrow the De Boucherville Cabinet, of which he had good reason to complain, he gave it a support so firm and so vigorous that the crisis was avoided. In 1880 he refused to enter the Dominion Government because he did not think he had completed the re-constitution of the Local Conservative party in the Province of Quebec.

In 1884, when the Government at Ottawa seemed determined to refuse the Province of Quebec its just demands, regarding the debt