

Kent separated from the others, to 1857, he was a member of its county council, and reeve of Chatham during the same period.

From the time of attaining his majority, Mr. McKellar was an interested observer of public events. His first vote was cast in 1841, in favor of a Tory candidate, but never one since. Not giving it much serious thought, he had allowed his surroundings and associations to influence his action. While taking an active part in the campaign, working and speaking in favor of his candidate, he was much impressed by some of the views held by the Reformers, and, as a consequence, after closely studying and comparing the policies and aims of the two parties, he became firmly convinced that the Reform party was in the right, and it ever afterwards received his firm support. In 1857 Mr. McKellar entered Parliament, and for eighteen years was prominently before the public. During that time he passed successfully through eight contests, his return being always bitterly opposed by the Conservatives, who made him a special object of attack, even going so far as to manufacture the most unfounded charges against him, though he never suffered much from their being fired at him. He was first elected to represent Kent in the United Parliament of Ontario and Quebec in 1857, where he remained until Confederation (1867), of which measure he was a supporter. In 1867 the county of Kent was divided into two ridings, and Mr. McKellar was elected to the Ontario Parliament from Bothwell, the eastern Riding of Kent, which he continued to represent until 1875, when he resigned to accept his present office. During this time he was one of the prominent figures in political life, and a man of decided ability. In 1871 he was appointed a member of the Executive Council, and was returned by acclamation on accepting office. From this time till April, 1874, Mr. McKellar was Minister of Agriculture and Commissioner of Public Works. Retaining the former office until he resigned, he also became Provincial Secretary when Mr. Fraser took charge of the Public Works Department, and held the offices of Minister of Agriculture, and Provincial Secretary till he resigned in 1875. He originated and carried through the Drainage Bill, perfecting it by subsequent legislation, before leaving the Government. This was a measure of great benefit and importance, especially to the farmers, and has been the means of reclaiming more than half a million acres of otherwise almost useless lands, and Mr. McKellar deservedly received much credit for it.

In 1875 he was appointed Sheriff of Wentworth county, and has satisfactorily discharged the duties of that office since August 1st of that year.

After his retirement from public life, the following address and presentation were tendered him by friends in his old constituency, in recognition of his public services :

"TO THE HON. ARCHIBALD MCKELLAR, SHERIFF FOR THE COUNTY OF WENTWORTH, AND LATE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY OF ONTARIO :

"SIR,—The events of the past nineteen years, during which you have been the representative of the county of Kent in the old Parliament of Canada, and since Confederation, of the county of Bothwell and the East Rid-