

liament after confederation, and has since been successively returned for the same seat at every election, either by acclamation, or if contested, always at the head of the poll. In 1872 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Province. In January, '76 he was unanimously chosen leader of the opposition by the party with which he affiliates, but on the defeat of the Walkem government in February, '76, he resigned the leadership of his party in favor of Hon. A. C. Elliott who then became premier, from whom, in July of the same year, he accepted the portfolio of Minister of Finance and Agriculture, and continued to administer the affairs of that important department until the defeat of the Elliott government at the general election of June, '78. When parliament reassembled he was again unanimously chosen as leader of the opposition, and on the defeat of the Beaven government in January, '83, he formed the present executive council at the request and with the approval of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, and thus became premier of the Government of British Columbia. Besides being endowed with unusual executive ability, his long public experience has made him an astute parliamentarian, ready and forcible in debate; and while possessing an intimate knowledge of the needs and resources of the province, he has an abiding faith in its great and inevitable future. Being only in his forty-first year, and in the enjoyment of vigorous health, the honorable gentleman has a fair promise of many years of life and usefulness before him.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

The Hon. Alexander E. B. Davie is one of the sons of the late Dr. John C. Davie, who emigrated from England to this province in 1862 and whose memory is cherished by early colonists. The Attorney-General commenced the study of the law in the office of Mr. Robert Bishop, completing his term of service with Messrs. Drake & Jackson. He was admitted a solicitor in 1868 and called to the bar in 1873, since which period he has been engaged in the active exercise of his profession. He represented the electoral district of Cariboo during 1876 and 1877. In 1877 he was appointed Provincial Secretary, a position which he soon afterwards resigned having been defeated on his return for re-election. At the general election in 1882 he was returned for the adjoining constituency of Lilloet at the head of the polls and having accepted in January, 1883, his present office, was re-elected by acclamation. In his professional vocation and political career he has identified himself with the Mainland, throughout which portion of the province he has been long and favorably known. Mr. Davie is a native of Somersetshire, England, and received his education at Silcoates School, Wakefield, Yorkshire, England.

THE HON. JOHN ROIXON.

Born at Perth, Ontario, of Scotch parents who emigrated to Canada in the beginning of the present century, was educated there; followed commercial pursuits at Perth, Montreal, Hamilton and Bayfield till 1859, when he came to British Columbia, attracted by the gold discoveries. A vigorous writer and forcible

speaker, he soon came to the front and took a leading part in the struggles of the then Crown Colony for representative government. Was editor and proprietor of the *British Columbian* (the pioneer and leading newspaper on the mainland), established at New Westminster in the beginning of 1861. Was elected Mayor of New Westminster in 1866. Is a Justice of the Peace for the Province and holds a lieutenant's commission in the militia. Represented the important district of New Westminster in the Legislative Council from 1867 to 1870 inclusive, and took a prominent part in bringing about confederation with Canada, the terms for which were formulated and adopted by the Legislature in 1870. Was elected to represent Nanaimo in the Legislative Assembly in 1871 and sat till the spring of 1875, when he accepted the appointment of Paymaster of the Canadian Pacific Railway surveys west of the Rocky Mountains, which position he continued to hold until its abolition in 1879. Resumed publication of the *British Columbian* in 1880, and at the general election of 1882 was returned for the District of New Westminster by the largest majority given by any constituency. Upon the defeat of the Beaven ministry, on the 26th January, 1883, and the formation of the Smith administration, he accepted the appointment of "Provincial Secretary and Minister of Mines, and Minister of Finance and Agriculture," and, on returning to his constituents, received their unanimous approval, having been re-elected by acclamation. His views on all public questions are liberal, progressive and statesmanlike and his name is prominently associated with the history of British Columbia and he enjoys the reputation of being the most vigorous newspaper writer in the Province and the most forcible speaker in the Legislature.

THE HON. MONTAGUE WILLIAM TYRWHITT DRAKE,

President of the Executive Council of British Columbia, was born at Kingswolden, Hertfordshire, England, and was educated at Charter House, after which he studied law, and, in 1851, was admitted as a solicitor in the Queen's Bench. Mr. Drake came to British Columbia in 1859, the period of the first gold discoveries in the province, and in 1869 entered public life, when he contested the city of Victoria and was returned as an opponent to confederation, which was then the great pivotal question of the politics of the day. During this time he also took a prominent and active part in the advancement of the educational interests of the country, having been a member of the Board of Education from 1872 until 1878. He was called to the Bar in 1873 and was again elected to a seat in the Legislature in 1882 as a representative of the Capital City, Victoria. At the formation of the present government in January, 1883, he was appointed President of the Executive Council and is also one of H. M. Justices of the Peace for this province. The honorable gentleman is the senior partner of the eminent law firm of Drake & Jackson, of Victoria. A man of recognized ability and social standing, coupled with considerable public experience, he is well qualified to discharge efficiently the very important duties of the high office to which he has so recently been called.