

council for a number of years, and held the important position of chairman of Finance the greater portion of the time. He afterwards served some years as a valued member of the Collegiate Institute Board, previous to 1897 when he was dropped by the record-making council of that year. He took an active interest in the Great Northern Exhibition and held the responsible position of Treasurer. Altho seriously ill at the time of the last exhibition he faithfully discharged the duties of his office.

In 1894 he was appointed chief magistrate of the town by the Ontario Government, a position, which he ably and conscientiously filled until the time of his death.

In politics he was a Liberal and in 1890 was a candidate in West Simcoe for the Local Legislature, when he was defeated by Dr. Wylie.

He was married in Collingwood to Miss Isabella Melville, who survives him. He leaves no children.

The funeral took place on Dec. 26th to the Presbyterian cemetery, the remains being borne to their last resting place by his old friends, Messrs R. O. Hunter, D. G. Cooper, W. A. Copeland and E. Stewart, and his nephews, Mr. M. N. Steplcaze, and Mr. H. N. Stephens, of Glencairn.

During Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday flags on the town Hall and others buildings floated at half mast to show that the public mourned the loss of a valued and highly respected citizen. The deceased was held in the highest esteem by the country in general. His sterling character, strict business uprightness and moral integrity were universally recognized. He will long be remembered by the older citizens as one of the most highly principled and public spirited men, and one who took an active and unselfish part in promoting the best interests of his fellowmen.

SOME CANADIAN HISTORY.

PARLIAMENTS SINCE CONFEDERATION AND THEIR PERIODS.

There have been eight Parliaments since Confederation. The elections for the first parliament were held between August 7th and Sept. 20th. Five sessions were held, and dissolution took place on July 8th, 1872, the elections being held twelve days

later. The second Parliament, which was short-lived assembled on March 5th, 1873 and after holding two sessions was dissolved on January 2nd, 1874. In this case also there was but a brief interval between dissolution and polling which took place on January 22nd, resulting in defeat of the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald. The third parliament in which the Mackenzie Ministry held the reins of power, opened its first session on March 26th, 1874, and after five sessions was dissolved on August 17th, 1878. The general election was held on September 17th and the second Sir John Macdonald Ministry was formed. The fourth parliament lasted four years opening on February 13th, 1879, and being dissolved on May 18th, 1882. The elections for the fifth Parliament were held on June 20th, 1882, 31 days after dissolution. It opened on February 8th, 1883, sat for four sessions, and was dissolved on January 15th, 1887. The elections for the sixth Parliament took place on February 22nd, and 38 days after dissolution. This Parliament was opened on April 13th, 1887, and as did its two predecessors, held four sessions. Dissolution took place on Feb. 3rd, 1891 and was followed by a general election on March 5th, 30 days after dissolution. The seventh parliament was opened on April 29th, 1891, and held six sessions, the only Parliament since Confederation which has done so. Dissolution took place on April 24th, 1896, the writs being made returnable on July 13th. The general elections did not take place until June 23rd, 60 days afterwards when for the second time since Confederation a Liberal Administration came into power. The eighth Parliament has held five sessions the last of which was prorogued on July 18, after a session of five and one-half months' duration.

Dissolution took place in October, and elections were held on Nov. 7th, the Laurier ministry being returned.

Section 50, of the British North American Act, 1867, provides: "Every House of Commons shall continue for five years from day of the return of the writs for choosing the House, subject to be sooner dissolved by the Governor-General, and no longer." The return of the clerk of the Crown in Chancery of the election of members dated Aug. 18th, 1896.