

PROMINENT BRITISHERS.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell.

Among the prominent Britishers in Canada there are few more worthy of mention than the subject of our sketch, the Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell, who has for so many years identified himself with the welfare of our glorious country. Than the present there is no better time to publish a brief account of a career so eminent.

He is the son of the late John Bowell, carpenter and builder of Rickingham, Suffolk, England, where Sir Mackenzie was born, in December, 1823. In 1833 he came to Canada with his parents and shortly afterwards was apprenticed to the printing business in the office of the Belleville Intelligencer. In after years he became the editor and eventually the proprietor, and thus, is to the rising generation an example of what strength of purpose, perseverance and will power can accomplish — from a printing office to the highest gift in the power of the Canadian government, that of prime minister, and the opportunity of doing untold good as a great public man. He has been in positions of trust and dignity on many occasions, being elected chairman of the Board of School Trustees for Belleville, Grand Master of the Orange Order of Ontario East and later Grand Master and Sovereign of the

Orange Association of British America. He has also taken a prominent place in the Order of Foresters and in Ontario agriculture, being Vice-President of the Ontario Agriculture and Arts Association and President of the Ontario Press Association; he is an honorary member of the S.O.E.

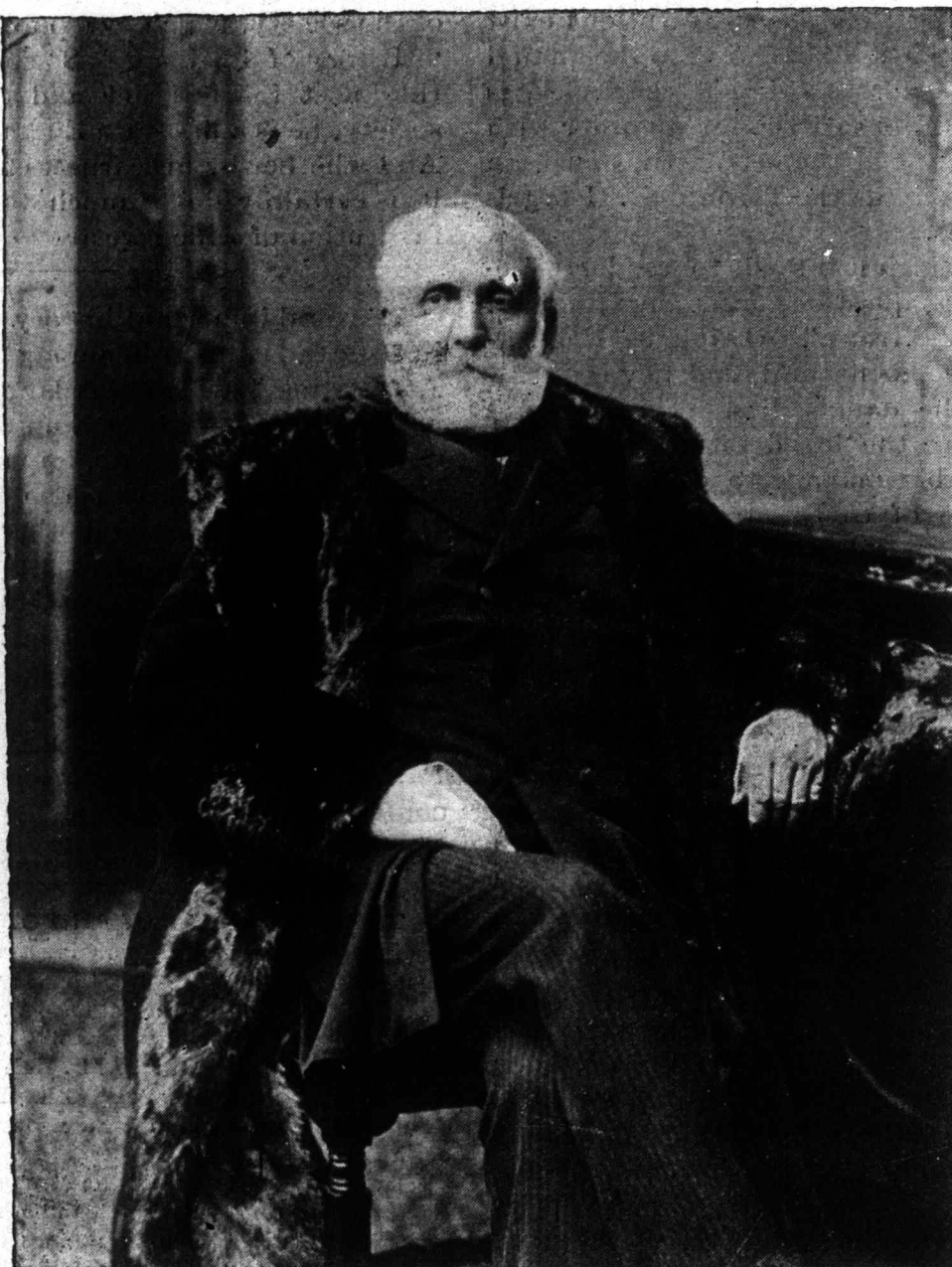
To military matters he is no stranger, being a Lt-Col. of the 49th Battalion, which office he obtained in 1872, rising from the rank of ensign. He was stationed with the corps of observation sent to the western frontier during the American Civil War. In 1863 Sir Mackenzie was an unsuccessful candidate for the representation of North Hastings in the Assembly, but at the first general election for

the House of Commons after Confederation, was successful in representing North Hasting, which he did faithfully for a period of 25 years, being then called to the Senate, where he is now the leader of the Conservative party and where he has been instrumental in doing much to further the interest of this Dominion.

As a private member he sat on the select committee of the Commons, appointed to enquire into the causes of the difficulties in the North West Territories in 1869-70, subsequently he moved the expulsion of Louis Riel from parliament and for his action in this matter received a testimonial from the Orange Body.

On the return of the Conservatives to power in 1898, he entered Sir John Macdonald's cabinet as Minister of Customs, occupying that office for 13 years. During which period the National Policy was developed, and falling as it

did to his lot to carry the new system into operation, he did it in a praiseworthy manner. Under Sir John Abbott he was Minister of Militia, under Sir John Thompson, was Minister of Trade and Commerce and on the demise of that statesman, December 1894. Sir Mackenzie formed an administration who dealt with the difficult question of the enforcement of remedial legislation in the matter of the Manitoba Schools. Owing to the environments of the question and to some differences of opinion existing when there should have been unity. It would have taken a man of the most extraordinary powers to settle it to the satisfaction of the many. Sir Mackenzie was the man chosen to further this, and difficulty would have been in the way of selecting a better. He did what was in his power to effect a settlement, but the time not being ripe such an arrangement was not arrived at and he retired



SIR MACKENZIE BOWELL.

ed in April, 1897, and was succeeded by Sir Charles Tupper. As minister of Trade and Commerce he went on a trade mission to Australia in 1893. One of the results of his journey was the Colonial Conference, (of which every one in the Empire has heard) that assembled in Ottawa June 1894 over whose deliberations he so ably presided. He was made a K. C. M. G., January 1895. Subsequent to his retirement from office he served as a delegate to England, regarding the Australian Cable Scheme, and from which such happy results followed and which promises to be one of the live issues of the day. In September 1896 he purchased the copy-right of his old newspaper the Belleville Intelligencer. He