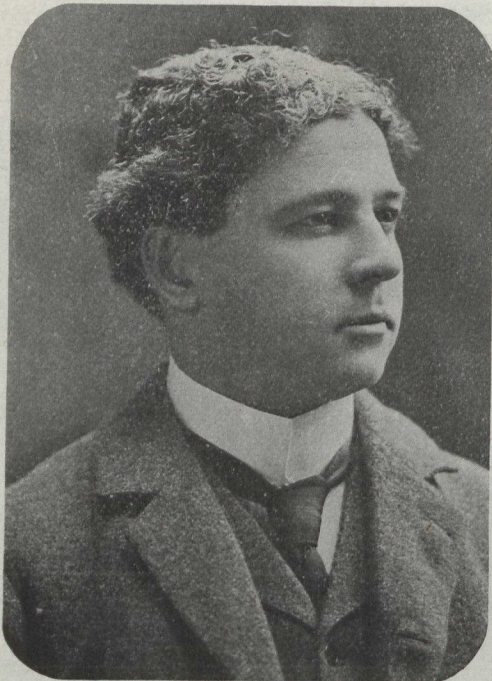


POPULAR MR. McBRIDE

The Most Talked-About Westerner

By JOHN COLLINS

RICHARD McBRIDE, colloquially recognized as "Dick" in British Columbia, where he was born, has gone through Ottawa like a fireworks "nigger-chaser" through a crowd. On his way back from the Coronation he casually dropped in upon Ottawa—in response to an invitation by wire—to see what was doing in the way of an election. With Mr. Borden he was concealed for three hours. When he came out and went to the Conservative room across the lobby from the Press Gallery room he caused a tumult of cheers. Breaking loose from his Conservative admirers he slipped over to the Press room, where the scribes gave him an ovation—as the Conservative papers



THE PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

say, "irrespective of party"; causing, however, one Liberal correspondent to write a column of entertaining "genial insult" concerning the Premier of British Columbia.

The Conservative Pacific Premier succeeded in stopping all the clocks on Parliament Hill during his all-too-brief stay at the Capital. He left a trail of political reflection behind; which may have been the reflex of a coming event that cast its shadow before. There is no doubt that Mr. McBride could swap his Premiership for a seat in the House of Commons if he so desired. For some time now it has been a sort of tradition in the Conservative party to be in alleged need of a Conservative provincial premier in the House. Sir James Whitney was so talked about for a while. But Sir James never could have made the stir in Ottawa caused by democratic "Dick" McBride with the boyish face, the handsome mien and the shock of almost white hair. In the same week Mr. C. W. Cross, late Attorney-General of Alberta, had a conference with Sir Wilfrid.

"I'd very much like to know," said a college mate of Charlie's, "what that interview was about."

But nobody knows—either what Charlie said to the Premier or what Mr. McBride said to Mr. Borden. Charlie came and went as quietly as a weasel; which is a way he has. Not so the Premier of British Columbia, of whom there is still some talk at the Capital and will be till the election is over. It happens that Mr. McBride is the practical dictator of the Pacific Province. Since 1909 his Government has had British Columbia under an enlightened despotism of Conservatism by as big a majority as ever the Liberals had in Alberta.

Since the evanescence of "Fighting Joe" Martin no figure has arisen in the West of such enthusiastic and optimistic proportions as Mr. McBride, who has been Premier of British Columbia since 1903; re-elected in 1907, and overwhelmingly returned in 1909, when his Government went to the Province on a basis of guaranteeing the bonds of a new railway. Clifford Sifton came shrouded in a nebula of political mystery. Of him it was always prognosticated what might happen next; and in most cases it was something else that happened. He shuffled across the prairie stage from Brandon to the Ottawa spot-light in an aura of speculative

mystery. He is still the undefined, indeterminate character for whom there is no hard and fast law of principle or expediency; as much of a thorn to the Government as Mr. Bourassa—who always could be defined in the language of politics.

In the cast of characters from the West also there has been and still is one of large proportions and unmistakable significance; Hon. Frank Oliver, who, though he was not born in the West, as was Mr. McBride, since the early days of the National Policy has stood out as a man prairie-made, an out-poster and trail-blazer whom all men understood. No political aura ever beshrouded Mr. Oliver. He has been a simple, determinate force, whose inclusion in the Cabinet to succeed Mr. Sifton was a tribute to a man who had staked all he ever had in the West and had won by force of character.

But with all his breezy brusquerie and open-eyed enthusiasm about the West, Frank Oliver was never the bundle of bustling, modern optimism represented by Richard McBride. The Premier of British Columbia has as many friends, according to population through the mountains and beyond, as Mr. Oliver has on the prairie. He has friends who do not support him in politics. He is first of all a Westerner. He was born at New Westminster in 1870, and he was twenty-eight years old when he was elected to represent Dewdney in the British Columbia Legislature. For two years he was Minister of Mines in the Dunsmuir Cabinet. In 1902 he became leader of the Conservative Opposition, and the next year Premier.

His pronouncement in an interview was peculiarly clear and vigorous:

"I believe that the verdict of the people against this iniquitous policy of Reciprocity will be startling, emphatic, unmistakable, and most satisfactory to us. I can guarantee that the five Conservative members from British Columbia will be returned to the next Parliament and that they will be joined by Conservatives representing the ridings of Nanaimo and Comox-Atlin.

"I understand that I will be offered the Conservative nomination in Comox-Atlin. I can only say in that connection that while I am always at the call of my leader and my party, yet I have laid upon me certain duties and obligations which cannot be lightly laid aside. I certainly can make no announcement respecting my possible entrance into Federal politics until I have consulted with the Lieutenant-Governor, the members of my Government, members of the Legislature, and the Provincial Conservative party, of which I am the leader.

"Our people are bitterly opposed to Reciprocity and we have a superb organization. Not only will British Columbia place at Mr. Borden's disposal all the seats under her control, but her influence will count for a great deal in the neighbouring Province of Alberta."

Not long ago—but some time before the present election was even foreshadowed—the man-from-Manitoba, the man-from-Dawson, and the man-from-Vancouver met in a Toronto cafe with a number of Torontonians. The talk turned upon the future prospects of the Conservative Party and the Hon. Richard McBride. The Toronto men maintained that Mr. McBride was a possible leader of the Dominion Conservatives and a possible Premier of Canada.

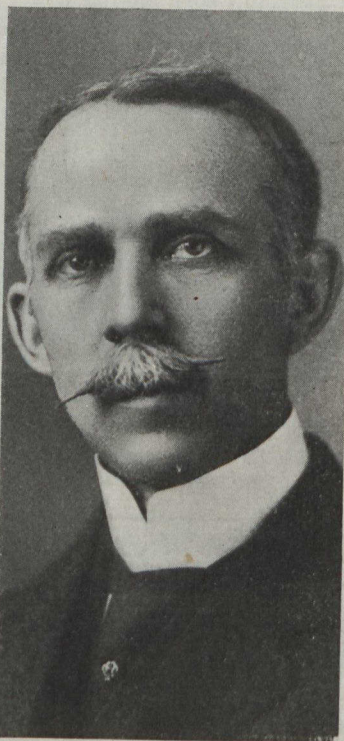
Then a bomb-shell burst. Said the man-from-Manitoba, "The East will never accept a man-from-the-West as Premier." The man-from-Dawson said, "That's right," and the man-from-Vancouver echoed the sentiment. The Toronto men stuttered and stammered, and did a number of linguistic and oratorical stunts in their attempt to deny that any such feeling existed. The atmosphere grew tense and oppressive, but the Westerners gently and quietly held to their ground. The party broke up without coming to an agreement.

The East has probably no such prejudice. Ontario and Quebec have accepted Maritime Province political leaders, university presidents and financial leaders without prejudice of any kind. Ontario and Quebec have done the same with such Western leaders as have come to Ottawa. They would accept a Western leader or premier as they have accepted Sir Charles Tupper, Sir John Thompson, Mr. W. S. Fielding and Mr. R. L. Borden. They will no more cast reflection upon Mr. McBride because he comes from the West than they have upon Mr. Sifton or Mr. Oliver or Mr. Templeman.

ABILITY TO ORGANIZE

The Author of the Canadian Club Idea

WHENEVER there is a Canadian club and wherever lives a man or woman who has been affected in any way by that movement, there is the influence of Charles Robert McCullough. In the board-room of his business college, in Hamilton, one day in December, 1892, the Canadian Club idea was born.



MR. CHAS. R. McCULLOUGH.

Not full-fledged of course, because growth and development necessarily came later. Nevertheless, to Mr. McCullough and the men who met there to make the first decision must be ascribed the credit.

McCullough is essentially an organizer. He has a penchant for details and for arousing and organizing the public. He wants people to do things. He is to the social world in which he moves what the big financier is in his world. In his native town of Bowmanville, where he was born, in 1865, he organized a football team which was known provincially. When he went to business college at Belleville, he did the same thing. Arriving in Hamilton, in 1888, to take over the business college there, he at once began stirring things up. Four

years later came the Canadian Club of that town—the first of a long line.

While he was building up the Hamilton Canadian Club, as first secretary and third president, he was also winning prizes as a fancy skater, was keeping up his interest in canoeing, music and in art. He was also founding, connecting and standardizing eleven business colleges, which are operating even to-day under a federation. In 1902, he disposed of his business college interests and promoted a successful engraving company. More recently he became a captain in the 91st Highlanders.

The other day, at Winnipeg, he was given a considerable compliment in being made the honorary president of the association of Canadian Clubs, at its third annual meeting, the greatest gift in the power of the Canadian Clubs of the Dominion. It is a fairly far cry from the little board-room in Hamilton in 1892 to a national gathering in Winnipeg in 1911, but the reputation of Charles R. McCullough has stood the test. The honour was given him in his absence—a fitting reward for an unselfish public service.

What fresh fields will the restless spirit conquer? Possibly he may assist in organizing the peace celebration of next year. He has taken much interest in this, and if he can spare the time, he is the man.

The Three-Session Parliament.

THE Parliament, which has just been dissolved, was remarkable for the few changes which took place in the membership of the House. There was only one death, that of Dr. Barr, of Dufferin, and only three by-elections. These were in Dufferin, where John A. Best replaced Dr. Barr; in North Essex, where Oliver Wilcox succeeded Hon. R. F. Sutherland, appointed to the bench; and in Drummond and Arthabaska, where Mr. Louis Lavergne, appointed to the Senate, was replaced by Mr. Gilbert, Nationalist.