

WALKEM, *Hon. GEORGE ANTHONY, Q. C., F.R.G.S. (Cariboo.)*

Family have lived for several generations on the border of Devon and Cornwall, near Saltash. S. of Charles Walkem, Esq., late R.E. Staff in Canada, and Miss Mary A. Boomer, sister of Very Rev. M. Boomer, LL.D., Dean of Huron. B. at Newry, Co. Armagh, Irel., Nov. 1834. Ed. in Pre-ton, Lancashire, and at the High School and McGill University, Montreal. Studied law with Hon. (now Sir) John Rose, Q.C. Called to the Bar of Lower Canada 1858, and to the Bar of Upper Canada in 1859, and to that of B.C. in 1864. Created a Q.C. in 1873. Settled in B.C. in 1862. M., 29 Dec. 1879, Sophie Edith, fifth dau. of the late Hon. Henry Rhodes, of Victoria, B.C. Was apptd. a mem. of the Legislative Council of British Columbia in 1864, and resigned the position in 1871, when he was returned to the Legislative Assembly, and became a member of the first Local Cabinet after the Union, holding the position of Chief Commr. of Lands and Works from 12 Jan. 1872 until 23 Dec. same year, when he was appointed Attorney General on Mr. McCreight's resignation. This position he occupied until 11 Feb. 1874, when, on the resignation of Mr. DeCosmos, he formed a new Government, in which he continued to hold the position of Attorney General and Premier until 27 Jan. 1876, when he resigned. Was unanimously elected leader of the Opposition, and in the spring of 1878 succeeded in defeating the Government. A general election following, Mr. Walkem's party were successful, and, in July 1878, he formed a new Ministry, in which he assumed the double duties of Attorney General and Chief Commr. of Lands and Works, and was also appointed Presdt. of the Council. Was a delegate to the Imperial Government in 1874 to present the case of B.C. on the subject of the difference between the Province and the Dominion, respecting the construction of the Can. Pac. Railway. At the end of the negotiations, was entertained at a large banquet in London, presided over by the Hon. Sir John Rose, Bart., and largely attended by noblemen, bankers, merchants and others interested in the success of the Canadian Confederation. Received a similar compliment on his return to B.C. During his stay in Eng. was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and was made a mem. of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and placed on the Select Committee on Fine Arts. First returned to the present House at g.e. 1871. Re-elected by acclamation on his appointment to office. Again returned at g.e. 1875, and at g.e. 1878, and once more by acclamation in the same year on assuming he reins of Government. A Conservative.—*Victoria, B. C.*