

mination to succeed, and they set their shoulders to the wheel. Despite the croakers, so remarkably successful were they that the last spike was driven by Donald Smith five years before the expiration of the allotted time. Of the guiding genius of the work, Sir Charles Tupper said "the Canadian Pacific Railway would have no existence to-day, notwithstanding all that the Government did to support that undertaking had it not been for the indomitable pluck, energy and determination both financially and in every other respect of Sir Donald Smith." Mr. J. J. Hill, his associate in the enterprise has placed on record this appreciation. "The one person to whose efforts and to whose confidence in the growth of our country our success in railway development is due, is Sir D. H. Smith."

In public life the railway-magnate was destined to play an important if not a conspicuous part. The troublous times of the Riel disturbance in 1869-70 first brought him into prominence. Because of his knowledge of the country and its people, he was at that time appointed by the Dominion Government, a special Commissioner to enquire into the causes of discontent. By his eminent services in this capacity he did much to allay the distrust of the half breeds and to bring about the final adjustment of the difficulty—services for which he received the public thanks of the Governor General in Council.

After the organization of the Province of Manitoba he was sent to the Legislature of that province by the constituency of Winnipeg and St. John. He was also called to the North West Territorial Council and returned for Selkirk to the House of Commons, which seat he held until 1880. In 1887 he was again sent to the House of Commons, this time by Montreal West with a majority of 1450. Although he retired definitely from politics in 1896, nothing, however, of Canadian interest was stranger to him, and we find him appointed by the *Bowell Administration*, a delegate to the Manitoba Government, with reference to the *School Question*. The same year came his appointment as High Commissioner, or representative of Dominion interests in England, a position in which the Laurier Government on its advent to power confirmed him, in recognition of his ability and the honor and dignity lent by his personality to the Canadian name.