

1896. His donations to McGill University, Montreal, amount to \$500,000. Cambridge and Yale conferred upon him the degree of LL.D. in 1887, and 1892. While residing in the North-West Lord Strathcona married Isabella, daughter of the late Richard Hardisty, of the Hudson Bay service.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR WILFRID LAURIER, G.C.M.G., P.C.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who has stood at the head of the Government of Canada since 1896, with exceptional distinction and success, is the son of the late Carolus Laurier, P.L.S., and his wife, Marcelle Martineau. He was born at St. Lin, in the Province of Quebec, on the 20th of November, 1841, and passed from the parish school to L'Assomption College. In 1860 he began the study of law at McGill University and in the office of the Hon. R. Laflamme. He graduated, with the B.C.L. degree, in 1864, and was called to the Bar in the same year. He took up the practice of law and continued it for three years when failing health necessitated a change of residence from the city and he became editor of a Reform newspaper named *Le Défricheur*, at L'Avenir, in the eastern townships. On the recovery of his health he resumed the practice of law at Arthabaskaville, at which place he continued to reside until he became Prime Minister of Canada in 1896. He succeeded in building up a substantial law business and was recognized as an able pleader in civil and criminal cases. He was created a Queen's Counsel in 1880, and was one of the commissioners who revised the Code of Civil Procedure of the Province of Quebec.

His political life began in 1871 when he was returned to the Legislature of Quebec for Drummond and Arthabaska. He at once sprang into prominence in the House and Province. His oratory was distinguished by grace and elegance, his opinions by boldness of conception and excellent judgment. He thus laid the foundation, in the Legislature, of his future leadership in Quebec and the political representative of the French Canadian race. In 1874 he withdrew from the Legislature and was returned by the same constituency to the House of Commons, where he was a marked man from the beginning of his tenure. His ability as a finished speaker was recognized in the larger area as readily as it had been in the Legisla-