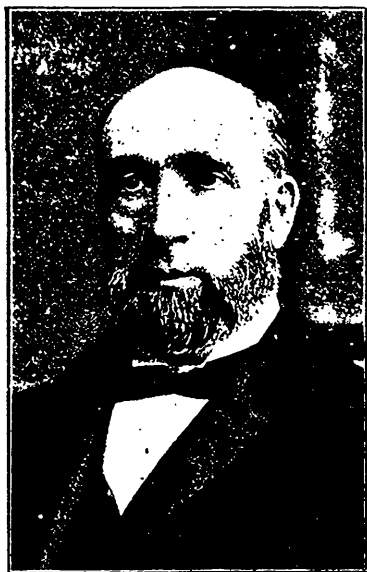


## SENATOR GEORGE A. COX.



HON. SENATOR COX.

**T**HE burden of poverty is a theme that has been much dilated upon, but the burden of wealth is one that is too generally thought to be of down. To the men of genius in the world of art, science, and letters, we hasten to do honour, and rightly so, but to the men of genius in finance, who are developing the industrial resources of our country and promoting prosperity among her citizens—to these, also, we ought to do honour.

In the insurance and financial world of Canada to-day there is perhaps no more prominent name than that of Senator George A. Cox.

In the founding of a great corporation in Ontario, in the opening of the coal-fields of the North-West, and in developing the iron industries of Nova Scotia, not only has he profited personally, but the community has shared his prosperity as well. He has acquired his wealth by developing the resources of his country, and is a living testimony to the fact that men of ability do not need to migrate to another land to acquire wealth. It can be done in Canada by the right men.

Some one has said of him that he

was never happy as “when he had run himself into a tight place financially, and was planning a way out.” It is this spirit of delight in surmounting difficulties that has carried him to the top. For certainly his early advantages were only such as belonged to thousands of Canadian boys.

George Albertus Cox was born in the village of Colborne, Ont., in the year 1840, and was of English descent. After receiving such educational training as those early days afforded, at the age of sixteen he began his career as an operator for the Montreal Telegraph Company in his native village. So thoroughly did he discharge his duties in this capacity that the Company appointed him as its agent in Peterborough. Here for thirty years he laboured tirelessly and steadily up the steep hill of fortune.

Much of the commercial and municipal life of Peterborough is indissolubly linked with his name. For seven years he was mayor of the town, four times by acclamation and three times by election. It was while there he became local representative of the Canada Life Insurance Company and of the Western Assurance Company.

In 1878 he took one of the most important steps in his career, when he became president of the Midland Railway of Canada at the request of its creditors. When he assumed the management of the Midland, the stock was selling at seventeen cents on the dollar. A few years later the property was sold to the Grand Trunk Railway, and so great had been the improvement that its securities were worth more than par. This sale was the foundation of Mr. Cox's fortune.

To him is due the honour of being the founder and first president of the Central Canada Loan and Savings Company. In 1888 he moved to Toronto, and a few years later became president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. In 1896 Mr. Cox was appointed member of the Dominion Senate. Since that he has received the additional honour of the presidency of the Canada Life Assurance Company, the welfare of which has been for forty years one of his most heartfelt interests.

But a man unspoiled by wealth and worldly honours Senator Cox has ever remained. In spite of his varied finan-