

knowledge of the intricacies of our law and that happy facility of instant application which usually stamps the prominent and popular pleader, he may be fairly said to lead the Bar of his Province and to rank with the few principal lawyers of this Dominion. Mr. McCarthy has appeared before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of the Empire in a number of important cases, amongst which may be mentioned the famous Streams' Bill, McLaren versus the Canada Central Railway, and the Ontario boundary case, in which last he represented the Province of Manitoba. While not uniformly successful before the Judicial Committee, Mr. McCarthy has made a distinct impression upon the Courts of the Dominion, and perhaps the services of no other man are so anxiously desired or so eagerly sought after in an important case as those of the member for North Simcoe in our House of Commons. Perhaps this very prominence in his profession has had no small effect upon the political life and success of the eloquent lawyer.

His career in politics did not, indeed, appear to commence under very favourable auspices. As in the case of so many others who have fought their way along the slippery pathway of political power, Mr. McCarthy met first with disaster and attained success only after persistent but vigorous battle with his opponents.

In 1867, during the first general election after Confederation, he made his first appearance as a politician in support of the late Mr. Angus Morrison, who contested the North Riding of Simcoe for the Legislative Assembly against Mr. Wm. Lount. Mr. Morrison was also a candidate for the House of Commons in the old division of Niagara, and as both elections were held at the same time, Mr. Morrison, finding himself hard pressed at Niagara, abandoned North Simcoe, leaving the battle to be fought by Mr. McCarthy in that constituency as his representative.

It was not an easy task to conduct a contest in the division in those days, when it comprised what are now known as the East and North Ridings of Simcoe. Meetings had to be held at very wide distances from each other, the roads were by no means beds of roses, and the people being so much isolated from one another, it was necessarily difficult to merge conflicting elements in a union of sentiment or action. The contest was a most unequal one from the first, owing to the great popularity of Mr. Morrison's opponent, aided by Mr. T. D. McConkey, who was elected for the Commons without opposition and