

The Canadian Courier

A National Weekly

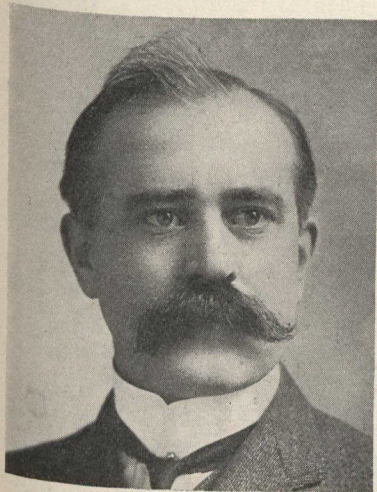
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IN THE PUBLIC VIEW



Hon. J. A. Calder,
Minister of Education, Saskatchewan.

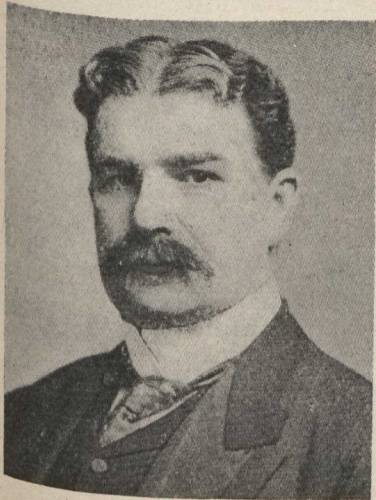
HON. James Alexander Calder, B.A., LL.D., Minister of Education for the Province of Saskatchewan, is an educationist by training as well as position. Like the Hon. G. W. Ross, and unlike Mr. Haultain and Dr. Pyne—the three ministers of education in Ontario in recent times—Mr. Calder was a school inspector. He had been previously principal of Moose Jaw High School. After being inspector from 1894-1900, he became deputy-commissioner of education for the Territories, a position he held for four years. In 1905, he was elected a member of the first Legislature of the new province and was appointed provincial treasurer and minister of education.

At the recent general election, he was defeated, but in a subsequent by-election was more successful. He has been the target for the Opposition because of a school-reader contract which he made with the Morang Co. of Toronto, the Alberta Government being also a contracting party. Mr. Haultain, leader of the Opposition, attacked this contract on the ground that the price was excessive and the books were printed in New York in a non-union shop. The latest rumour is to the effect that a commission or committee of the House will be appointed to investigate and that the Scott Government hope by this means to vindicate Mr. Calder and incidentally put Mr. Haultain in the list of past-masters of the political arts.

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THE Hon. Charles R. Devlin, Minister of Mines, Colonisation and Fisheries for the Province of Quebec, was taken suddenly ill on Christmas Day but is recovering. He was recently in England arranging for the establishment of an Agent-General in London, who will look after Quebec's interests at the Heart of the Empire. Quebec has never had a representative there, although smaller provinces have. Ontario is preparing to do the same. The practice is thus getting quite common.

Mr. Devlin is Canadian born and his wife is a French-Canadian. He had served two sessions in the Dominion House, when he went to Galway and was elected to the Imperial House in 1903 and 1906. In the latter year he returned and again entered the Dominion Parliament. Nearly a year later he transferred to the Quebec Legislature with his present portfolio. He has a brother in the Dominion House, representing the County of Wright, Mr. Devlin's old constituency. He is a witty speaker and is said to be a clever administrator.



Hon. C. R. Devlin,
Minister of Mines, Quebec.

CASTRO is in Europe and Gomez administers the affairs of Venezuela. President Cipriano Castro has been called the "Restorer" of Venezuela. He certainly was a "Dictator." Perhaps he was also the "Exploiter." History alone will tell all the tale. In any case, he seems to have abandoned his beloved country for a permanent holiday. General Juan Vincenti Gomez is the acting president and may possibly succeed to the full title.

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MAYOR OLIVER—colloquially known as "Joe" Oliver—is again Mayor of Toronto.

Mr. Oliver polled more votes than all the other candidates combined, with the largest majority accorded to any Canadian mayor in many years. He is one of the least pretentious chief magistrates Toronto ever had. In bulk he is considerable. He belongs to the heavy-weights. He is a convivial temperance man; one of the fat men who get along well with the public and do not fight with colleagues. Rows at the Board of Control have been rare during the past year. Mr. Oliver, however, has sometimes spoken his mind with the decision of a rat-trap. His grammar is not always unimpeachable. Some of his *lapses lingue* are almost classic now. For he was not brought up on rhetoric, but on pine deals. A good lumberman, may sometimes be a lumbering speaker. At the same time Mr. Oliver knows how to construct sentences, logically and in order of magnitude as well as any one. He makes his meaning clear. Also he works between speeches. He has never fussed over a silk hat like his predecessor. But behind that mellifluous eye there reposes a sleeping dog of vigorous practical intellect. A year ago Mr. Oliver was unknown to the public. He now stands the same chance of immortality as Emerson Coatsworth and Thomas Urquhart. One of his most recent aphorisms indicates that he takes his job with some meed of importance. Delivering a civic address of welcome to a visiting body of Britishers he said—from manuscript—"Toronto, the premier city in the banner province of the greatest colony in the most stupendous Empire the world has ever seen." The logic of that phraseology should make Mayor Oliver Premier of Canada.

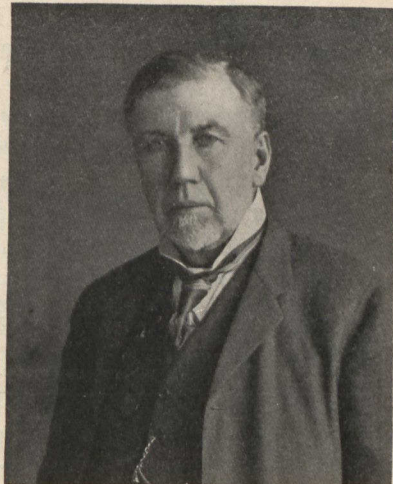
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MR. JOHN ROSS ROBERTSON has given another \$10,000 to the Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto. Mr. Robertson has genuine sympathy with the suffering children, the tiny ones who suffer through no fault of their own or through accident. He also believes and practises that a man who does one piece of public work and does it well is doing pretty nearly enough. Of course, his interest in Freemasonry, his historical investigations, and his interest in the Canadian Associated Press are more or less parts of a busy life such as distinguish prominent citizens from those who pursue less active careers.

Mr. Robertson is not content to preach charity, although he is very good at that, but he practises it as well. There are those who say that there is not much charity in the editorials in the *Telegram* but after all why should the journalist be charitable? Is it not his business to be a fault-finder and a critic, so as to keep vote-seeking aldermen and politicians, as well as public-utility corporations, up to the mark? At least, this seems to be Mr. Robertson's point of view.

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THE Indian Congress at Madras has approved Lord Morley's scheme of reform in the government of India. Dr. Choz, President of the Congress, declared that the measure of self-government advocated by the Indian Secretary had done much to dispel the cloud that had hung over India for the past year and that the upshot of the reform would be to give India a measure of constitutional government. Lord Morley is not unknown in Canada. The last time he was here he visited at the home of Mr. Goldwin Smith who recently intimated that there was no danger of an uprising in India within the next five years.



Mr. John Ross Robertson,
Proprietor of "Evening Telegram," Toronto