

in esteem in the House on account of his kindly and genial nature, and because he is the "father of the House," being the only member who is now in the House who was elected at Confederation. He has been Speaker of the Assembly. The honorable and worthy doctor has our hearty congratulations.

The Ludicrous Excess of Physicians.

It is an easy matter for a young man to say to himself, "I am going to study medicine." Having formed this resolve, it becomes a more difficult question to find the means needed for a long and expensive sojourn at college. What with loss of time, clothes, books, board, etc., the expense may safely be set down at \$3,000 as the price of the piece of parchment on which a few Latin words are printed and a large red seal stamped. But the question, "Where am I going to practise?" is the hardest of all. Every city is full to overflowing; the towns have two doctors for one that is really needed. Some time ago Dr. Lauder Brunton stated that the average income of medical men in Great Britain had greatly decreased. It is certainly so in this country and in the United States. In some American journals it has been shown that the incomes of medical men have decreased at least fifty per cent. The London *Lancet* pointed this fact out very forcibly, and drew attention that many who graduated in medicine disappeared from practice, showing that their professional work had been a failure. It is an actual fact that in many cities in Europe and the United States, the incomes of the majority of the doctors are not better than those of the ordinary mechanic. When the profession of medicine ceases to bring in a fair income, it will soon cease to bring dignity to its members. When the competition becomes excessive the fees will be cut down, in the hope that cheap attendance may bring some patients to the office. Doctors will be forced—as in many large cities they are now forced—to do other things to increase their incomes. From all sources the same cry comes forth that the profession is fearfully overcrowded. The notion that there is plenty of room at the top is too visionary for everyday life. Of the thousands who graduate every spring, only a few, a very odd one, attains to eminence or affluence, and then only after a life of the most arduous devotion to his duties. What a writer in the *Medical News* says of the United States is, we believe, equally applicable to Canada. We have a perfectly ludicrous excess of physicians half starving and competing with others all over the land. While France finds one