

## THE LATE SIR A. A. DORION, Chief Justice of Quebec.

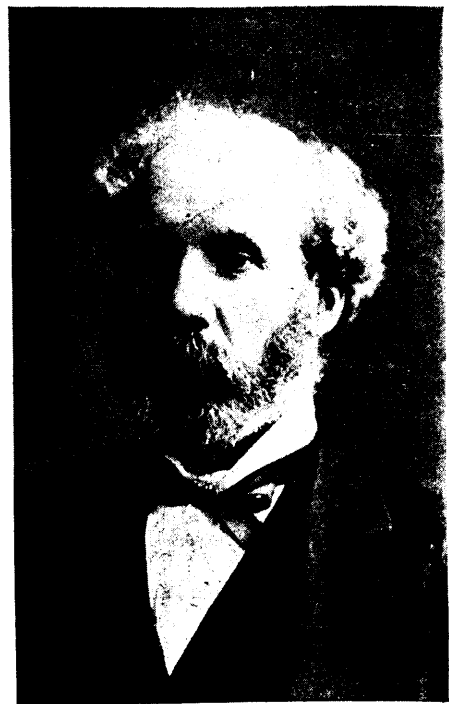
On the morning of the 31st May there passed away one who not only stood highest in the roll of the Quebec judiciary, but who had in former years taken a prominent part in the most noteworthy political events in Canada's history. To a certain degree his death, and the interest which such has awakened, has been overshadowed by the demise of the great Premier; although it must be remembered that Sir Antoine Dorion's political life practically ceased seventeen years ago, and to many of the readers of to-day he is known only in his judicial capacity.

Antoine Aime Dorion was born in the parish of Ste Anne de la Perade, in the County of Champlain on the 17th of January, 1818. His father, Mr. P. A. Dorion, was a general merchant of that place, was highly respected and of considerable influence; he represented his county in the Legislative Assembly from 1830 to 1838. His mother was a daughter of Mr. P. Bureau, who had represented the county of St. Maurice in the House of Assembly from 1820 to 1834; it will therefore be seen that the late Chief Justice came from good political stock. He was educated at the parish schools and at Nicolet College, whence he entered on the study of law; in January, 1842, he was admitted to the Bar of Lower Canada, and commenced practice in Montreal, where from his skill, good judgment and courteous manner he found hosts of clients. In 1848 he married the daughter of the late Dr. Trestler of this city, and six years later was elected to Parliament as one of the Montreal members. From his youth he had taken a marked interest in politics, espousing the *rouge* or Liberal side, and at an early stage of his Parliamentary career became the recognized leader of the French section of that party, being in close accord with the late Hon. George Brown in questions of public policy. In the famous two-day administration formed by Mr. Brown in 1858, on the rather unworthy attack on the Government by condemning Her Majesty's choice of Ottawa as the capital, Mr. Dorion took the portfolio of Commissioner of Crown Lands; but immediately afterwards was forced to lapse into Opposition. At the general election of 1861, Mr. Dorion ran for Montreal East but was defeated by

Mr. Geo. E. Cartier, and prepared to devote himself to his profession. In the case of a man of his calibre, it was, however, only a question of time before he should again take a prominent part in public affairs, and in 1862 the opportunity came. On the 30th of May of that year the Government (Macdonald-Cartier) was defeated, and in the new Cabinet Mr. Dorion was appointed Provincial Secretary, which position he resigned in September on the ground of inability to support the Intercolonial Railway policy of his associates; he shortly afterwards, however, resumed office as Attorney-General, East. In March, 1864, the Administration was defeated, and Mr. Dorion once more took his seat on the Opposition benches.

Mr. Dorion was an opponent of Confederation; but, on the completion of that glorious event, did not retire from public service, and at the first general election was elected member for the County of Hochelaga and represented that constituency for several years. In the general election of 1872, he was returned for Napierville; and on the downfall of Sir John A. Macdonald's cabinet in 1873, and the formation of a new administration by Hon. Alexander Mackenzie he became Minister of Justice, until appointed Chief Justice of Quebec on the 30th of May, 1874, when he received the honour of knighthood from Her Majesty. This position he retained until death.

He was a man of strict integrity, high principle, and courteous manner. In his judicial capacity his rulings were everywhere commended on the ground of law and strict impartiality. An excellent linguist, he was equally at home in both English and French; and in his removal from his high office, the loss to the Province and to the Bench of Canada is universally deplored. His death, like that of his great opponent, was comparatively sudden. On Wednesday, 27th May, he was taken ill, with what at first appeared to be only a slight cold, but which rapidly developed into paralysis of the brain; and in the early morning of the following Sunday he passed away, fortified by the last sacraments of his Church, and conscious of having devoted his life and talents to the service of Canada.



### The Late Mr. John Lewis.

The late Mr. John Lewis, Customs Surveyor at the Port of Montreal, whose death occurred on the 9th inst., was a gentleman who, not only on the score of long and faithful service, but because of his eminently fine qualities as a man and a citizen, deserved and held the high esteem of his fellows. Born at Caerwys, North Wales, on May 20, 1820, he came when a young man to this city as an imperial customs officer. His service here began in May, 1841, and he had therefore completed half a century of service before death claimed him. Mr. Lewis was a capable and conscientious official, holding the full confidence of the department. He was deputy collector during 1865-66, and was on several occasions appointed a commissioner to investigate matters relating to the customs. He was an active member of St. Paul's church, a warm friend of the Y.M.C.A., and so liberal in spirit that the work of the Salvation Army met with his hearty approval. A friend of athletics, he filled the position of president in both the Victoria Rink and the gymnasium. He was a member of St. George's Society, and held the office of president; belonged to the Celtic Association and the Welsh Society, and always manifested a warm interest in the welfare of his countrymen. An eminently philanthropic and broad-minded man, his influence was at the command of every worthy cause. His death, which occurred after only a brief illness, is mourned by very many persons outside his family circle and intimate friends.

### The Hero of Thobal.

The *London Canadian Gazette* says:—It may interest Canadian readers to know that Lieutenant Charles Grant, V.C., whose distinguished services have won for him the title of the "Hero of Thobal," is associated with Canada in more ways than one. His father, Lieutenant-General Grant, of the Madras Staff Corps, is a frequent visitor to the Dominion, and is possessed of property near Vancouver. His brother, Mr. James Grant, has for some years farmed with success at Griswold, in Manitoba, and so strong does the military instinct run in the family—whose motto, "Stand fast, Craigellachie," Sir Donald Smith, by the way, made memorable in Canadian history at the driving of the last spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway—that his brother served with the 91st Regiment all through the North-West campaign. A daughter of General Grant is married to an English resident of Manitoba, and is also settled near Griswold.

The first electrical pinnace constructed for the British Navy was launched recently. She is built rather for roominess than for speed, having a capacity for forty fully equipped men. Her length over all is 48½ feet, with 8 feet 9 inches beam and 2 feet 3 inches deep. The accumulators are contained along the sides under the seats and consist of 70 cells giving 140 volts. The transformer is placed under the stern. She is designed for a speed of eight knots per hour, and will run from ten to twelve hours without recharging the accumulators. It is estimated that the cost of running this boat will not exceed that of a steam launch of the same capacity.