

Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, the son of the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and a former Minister in the British Cabinet, proved decidedly popular in Canada. He married an Ottawa lady, and this strengthened his ties. He was an indefatigable traveller in Canada, and having bird-study as one of his many hobbies, wrote a book The Birds of Brewery Creek.

After initial establishment of offices on Wellington Street, the British Government acquired in 1930 "Earnscliffe", on the high bank of the Ottawa River. This fine old house was erected by Hon. Thomas McKay in the early fifties of the last century. He built it for his married daughter, Mrs. John McKinnon. McKay was said to have given it the name "Earnscliffe" but it is also claimed that Sir John A. Macdonald so called the property when he rented it. The city directory of 1870-71 makes no mention of "Earnscliffe", but the Canada Directory of 1871 gives the residence of Sir John as "Earnscliffe", Metcalfe Square.<sup>(1)</sup> According to Mrs. Desbarats, Sir John was responsible for the name even before he lived there. The Reynolds family were debating what name to give their new home; they had decided on "Eaglescliffe" when Sir John came in. About the name, he said, why not call it "Earnscliffe", "Earn" being the Scottish name for "eagle".<sup>(2)</sup> Thomas Reynolds, superintendent of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Railway, acquired it from Thomas McKinnon,

(1) Ottawa Citizen, July 12, 1958.

(2) Lilian Desbarats: Recollections. p. 50.