

an active share in the party contests in the Riding. In 1875, on the unseating and disqualification of Mr. Thomas Stock, Dr. McMahon was chosen in North Wentworth as the Reform candidate for the Legislature, in opposition to Dr. Thos. Miller, whom he defeated by 125 votes. Four times since he has been successful in carrying the Riding. In 1879, he defeated James McMonies, a member of his own party, by over 1000; in 1883, his majority over T. J. Bell was 150; over Alex. W. Brown, 484 in 1886, and over W. F. Maclean (of Toronto), 288 in 1890. Both in the House and out of it the Doctor has always been a consistent supporter of the Government of Hon. Oliver Mowat, and he has made his influence worthily felt in Dominion contests as well. In January, 1858, he married Julia M., a daughter of the late William M. Ball, a member of an old and respected family in Niagara. The Doctor is a brother of the late Judge Thomas B. McMahon, of Norfolk, and of Hon. Mr. Justice McMahon, of the Superior Court.

#### SIR HECTOR LOUIS LANGEVIN,

*Quebec, Que.*

**H**ON. SIR HECTOR LOUIS LANGEVIN, P.C., C.B., K.C.M.G., Q.C., LL.D., Ottawa, late Minister of Public Works for the Dominion of Canada, M.P. for Three Rivers, Quebec Province, was born in the city of Quebec, on the 25th August, 1826. He is descended from an illustrious line of ancestry, and by his gifts and repute as a statesman has conferred further distinction on the family pedigree. His father, the late Jean Langevin, was assistant civil secretary under the Earl of Gosford and Lord Sydenham, during the period those noblemen held the office of Governors-General of Canada; and his brother is the Right Rev. Jean Langevin, late bishop of St. Germain de Rimouski, and now Archbishop of Leontopolis. His mother, Sophie Scholastique La Force, was a daughter of Major La Force, who faithfully served his country during the War of 1812-14, and whose grandfather was acting commodore of the British fleet on Lake Ontario during the American revolutionary war. Sir Hector Louis Langevin, the subject of this sketch, received his education at the Quebec Seminary, and in 1846 left school to take up the study of law with the late Hon. A. N. Morin, at Montreal. At an early age he manifested a taste for literature, and while pursuing his studies wrote a great deal for the press. He became editor of the *Melanges Religieux* in 1847, and subsequently editor of the *Journal of Agriculture*, both papers being published in Montreal. When Mr. Morrin retired from practice, Mr. Langevin entered the office

of the late Sir George Etienne Cartier. Now began the connection between those two distinguished men which was destined to last so long, to be so close and loyal, and of such importance to his French-Canadian compatriots as well as to the people of the Dominion generally. He was called to the Bar of Lower Canada in October, 1850. In 1856 Mr. Langevin was elected representative of Palace ward in the Quebec city council; subsequently he became chairman of the Water Works Committee, and during the absence of the Mayor, Dr. Morin, in England, he acted as chief magistrate of Quebec city. In 1857 he assumed the editorial management of the *Courrier du Canada*, published in Quebec. The same year he was chosen Mayor of Quebec, and also representative for Dorchester county in the Legislative Assembly of Canada. On entering parliament he very naturally supported the administration, one of the leaders of which was the gentleman at whose hands he had received his political as well as his legal training. The Macdonald-Cartier ministry, however, held life by a very precarious tenure, and as the difficulties thickened about it, numbers yielded up their support, and it was forced to resign. Then Mr. George Brown was called to office, but had to relinquish it in three days, on a motion of non-confidence moved by Mr. Langevin. The old ministry was recalled to power, and a readjustment took place. On the 30th of March, 1864, Mr. Langevin became a Queen's counsel, and on the same day entered the Tache-Macdonald administration as solicitor-general, east. In 1866 he became postmaster-general, which office he retained till the consummation of Confederation. In the Confederation movement he took a prominent part. He was a delegate to Charlottetown, and a member of the Quebec conference, and went to England to aid the Home Office in perfecting the Confederation scheme. During this entire movement the tact, suavity and broad statesmanship which he has shown so prominently in later years came full into light. Sir George E. Cartier was energetic, forcible, patriotic, but he had not the *savoir-faire* of the Hon. Mr. Langevin; he often exasperated where he should have conciliated. In the first Dominion administration Mr. Langevin was secretary of state for the Dominion, and the following year he was created a C.B. In 1869 he was given the portfolio of Public Works. In 1870 he was created a Knight Commander of the Roman Order of Pope Gregory the Great. During Sir George Cartier's absence in England, in 1873, Mr. Langevin acted as leader of the French Canadian Conservative party, and upon the death of his chief became the permanent leader. In 1873, on the fall of Sir John A. Macdonald's administration, he resigned office.