



The CANADIAN COURIER

The National Weekly



HERBERT
PICKER

Vol. XIV.

October 11, 1913

No. 19

People Talked About

THOUSANDS know Henri Bourassa, the picturesque schoolmaster of the Nationalists; tens of thousands have read his articles and heard him speak. Very few know much or anything about his father, Napoleon Bourassa. But to the select little world of art and literature in the Province of Quebec, the patriarchal old man of letters, upon whose face is written nobleness of character and loftiness of thought, holds a larger share of respect and affection than is even claimed by his brilliant offspring from the most devoted of his followers.

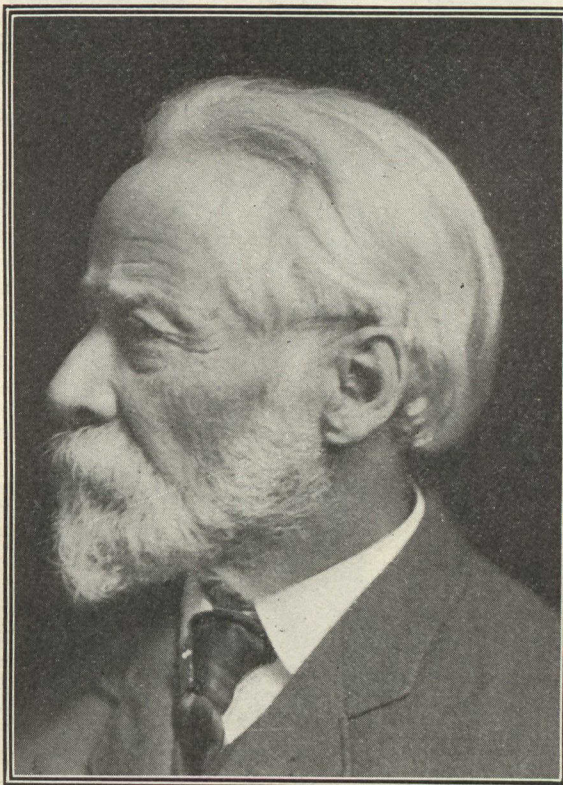
Napoleon Bourassa epitomizes the highest type of the cultured French-Canadian of the old school. At the age of eighty-five he can look back upon a life of noble endeavour to cultivate a taste for art and letters among his people. In this he laboured not in vain, and old Quebec has many lasting monuments to his genius. When a very young man he courted and won the hand of the youngest and most talented daughter of that famous French-Canadian reformer, Papineau. She died in 1869, after twelve years of a happily married life, and Bourassa, still a young man, threw himself heart and soul into painting. He studied for some time under the late Theophile Hamel, at Quebec and Toronto, and was later for three years at Florence and Rome. During this time he was much with Overleek, the German religious painter, and followed his methods closely. In 1880 he was chosen by the Marquis of Lorne as a member of the newly-established Royal Academy of Arts, and served as its vice-president.

The church of Notre Dame de Lourdes, Montreal, is an example of his powers as architect, painter and decorator, and even in recent years he has designed many fine churches in Canada and the United States.

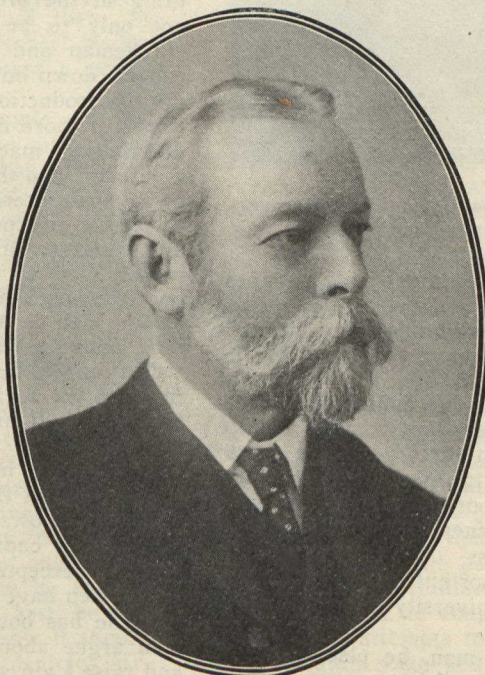
Mr. Bourassa is not unknown to French-Canadian literature, and is the author of "Jaques et Marie," an historical romance relating to the departure of the unhappy Acadians in 1755, as well as several volumes of lectures. At the age of eighty-five he is still hale and hearty.

A Single Taxer

WILLIAM SHORT, K.C., Mayor of Edmonton, will be remembered a very long while as the man who, in 1902, became for three successive years Mayor of what was then a fur town, and in 1912, because he had taken a very live bull by the horns and successfully got him cornered, was re-elected chief magistrate of a city. In the eight years that William Short was a private citizen Edmonton changed from a clattering furpost town to an energizing young city of modern ideas and progressive business. But it didn't succeed in outgrowing W. B. Short. He was born in Elora, studied law in Ontario, and in 1894 was admitted to the Alberta bar—which was then about as serious as the bottom bar in a fence-gap. Mere legality never made W. B. Short the character he is to-day. It was the country and the town. Short was always a public citizen. He took a keen interest in the civic and religious and educational affairs. He was chairman of the Edmonton School Board in the last few years of the 19th century. He was Clerk of Sessions or some such dignitary in the Presbyterian Church. He was senior partner of the firm, Short and Cross, long before Charlie Cross dreamed of being Attorney-General of Alberta. He



THE FATHER OF HENRI BOURASSA
Napoleon Bourassa, Litterateur and Student of Art.



LIBERAL HOPE IN CHATEAUGUAY
Hon. Sydney Fisher, Opposition Candidate
in the by-election Oct. 11.



FOUR TIMES MAYOR OF EDMONTON
William B. Short, a Progressive Municipal
Worker.

drove a good horse and was a splendid driver. In a day when after-dinner speakers were supposed to take their cue from Frank Oliver, he stuck to his own facile and effective style of delivery and got away with it.

And in 1902, when he became Mayor of Edmonton, when there was nothing but a switchback railway on the flats and a cable ferry to connect Edmonton to the civilized world, beginning at Strathcona. Short was far-sighted enough to recognize a very large bull on the edge of the field which he expected to tackle some day, or somebody else would. The bull was taxation. The thing that W. B. Short more than any other one man was responsible for inaugurating in that part of the world was a form of single tax which remains to this day as a partial leveller in Edmonton and has been an example to other cities in the West.

The Battle of Chateauguay

ON Monday of last week the Hon. Sydney Fisher was nominated as the Liberal candidate in the by-election, to be held in Chateauguay county, on Oct. 11th. After the nomination Mr. Fisher was telephoned for and motored over to the convention. He then delivered an address in French, as half the delegates represented the French-Canadians of the county. Honourable Rodolphe Lemieux followed in both English and French. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, it was announced, would make two addresses during the campaign, one at Ormestown and one at St. Martine.

These are the bare facts. The romance is that the Hon. Sydney Fisher, having been defeated in the general election of 1911, now seeks to re-enter the House of Commons. While the constituency is Liberal by a small majority, it is just possible that Mr. Fisher will not be elected. The whole force of the Government will be against him. Further, the Liberals of Chateauguay would have preferred another candidate who was not available. In face of these circumstances Mr. Fisher has shown great courage in undertaking the campaign.

Mr. Fisher is a native of Montreal and a graduate of McGill and Cambridge. His whole business life has been devoted to farming, and "Alva Farm," at Knowlton, is one of the famous places of the Province of Quebec. To enumerate the offices which Mr. Fisher has held in agricultural associations, high and low, would require much space. His first attempt in politics was made in 1880, when he was defeated in Brome. Two years later he redeemed the same constituency and has been in the House of Commons almost continuously

ever since. When the Laurier administration was announced in July, 1896, he was named as Minister of Agriculture and held that portfolio until 1911.

There may be differences of opinion as to Mr. Fisher's services as Minister of Agriculture, but all agree that he has been an industrious and painstaking public servant. He has given unselfishly of his services and his wealth to his country as well as to the Liberal party. Further, his administration has always been clean and national. He represents the highest, if not the most brilliant, type of Canadian statesmen. Even his worst political enemy, and he has no other kind, will admit as much.