

Lord Strathcona.

WELL nigh seventy-six years have elapsed since Donald A. Smith, then a mere stripling of about seventeen summers, left his home in Forres, Morayshire, to avail himself of the opportunities held out to the strong and ambitious by young Canada. But that long span of years which brings us to the present day convinces us that he has availed himself not only of Canada's opportunities but also of those proffered by the Empire.

Equipped with a sound elementary education, Mr. Smith accepted service with the Hudson's Bay Company, and was sent to Labrador. A few months' sojourn convinced his employers of his remarkable courage and business acumen and destined him for rapid promotion. Advancement followed advancement, until in 1868 he was appointed chief executive officer in Canada.

Nor were the sterling qualities of Mr. Smith recognized by the Company alone, for in 1870 the Canadian Government asked him to enquire into the causes of the Red River Rebellion, and if possible to adjust the difficulties. He accepted the commission without hesitation, and manifested great ability and prudence in the discharge of this mission.

This appointment marked his advent into Canadian public life, and his conduct on this occasion characterized him as a business statesman as well as a successful business man. The following year he represented Winnipeg in the first Legislature of the new province.

Four years later Mr. Smith entered Federal politics, and was elected member for Selkirk, Manitoba, and remained such until 1880, when he was defeated in a bye-election. His advent into this new sphere was marked by his vigorous and untiring endeavors to impress upon Parliament the importance and value of our western territory. Realizing the necessity of a transcontinental railway, he fought for it with remarkable determination, and succeeded in inducing Parliament to provide for that bond of steel which has helped to make the Dominion one of national importance, and which is known to-day as the Canadian Pacific Railway. Sir Charles Tupper says: "The Canadian Pacific Railway would have no existence to-day, notwithstanding all that the Government did to support that undertaking, had it not been for the pluck and energy