

A Distinguished Irish-Canadian,

Legislator, Lawyer and Orator.

Hon. Michael Felix Hackett, Q.C., M.P.P.,
Provincial Secretary of Quebec Province.

The task of the biographical writer is not so easy as some people may imagine, for he must keep his pen under the restraint of discretion.

When he speaks too warmly of his subject the str of flattery is alleged.

If he writes in unappreciative tones it may be called a denial of justice.

Of course strict impartiality is the proper guide in such matters, because a man should be known by his weaker as well as by his stronger points.

The subject we have chosen for this occasion will relieve us from the gruesome task of putting a dark side to the picture at all, for his career from the earliest start in public life has been clear, progressive and useful, and always marked by a degree of ability and integrity which won him the entire confidence and respect of the people or communities he represented or labored for.

Canada is a fruitful field in the wide scope it offers for the display of talent, industry and perseverance in its native sons, and those of foreign lands who decide to make it their adopted country.

Of all the elements in the land who strive for its growth and its welfare none take deeper pride in the progress of the Dominion than do Irishmen and their sons and descendants.

Its broad territories and fair dealing systems of Government to all creeds and races, present to the Irish Catholic a pleasing contrast to what he was accustomed to in the old land, where acres are restricted and foreign manufactured laws are not to his liking.

In the career of Hon. M. F. Hackett we have a pointed illustration of the heights of fortune and honor that may be reached by the gifted sons of Ireland on this side of the Atlantic where the course is open in the race for preferment and distinction to every man who makes profitable use of the abilities and opportunities that God bestows upon him.

No doubt Mr. Hackett had many uncommon advantages in early boyhood at home under his father and mother's roof, as well as in the beginning of his public career.

To be born of good, honest and virtuous Irish Catholic parents is more than half the battle in later life. Because it is in those early days when the mind is plastic, that good principles and habits are formed and it is upon this sure foundation of rectitude that the mature structure of ripened manhood has to rest.

As Irish Catholic parents value religion and moral purity themselves, in like measure will they instill into the mind and heart of their children, and it can not be gainsaid that any lesson is so lasting or so fruitful as that which a pious mother imparts.

Young Master Hackett had this preliminary training in full measure in his very childhood, and when he left home to begin his college course of enlarged scholastic studies he entered into college walls having as pure an atmosphere as he had left behind him.

In the renowned College at St. Hyacinthe, Quebec Province, he proved himself a student of remarkable mental aptitudes and persevering industry.

In the face of the keenest scholarly competition he won the gold medal and graduated in 1869, with high distinction. At this stage it was seen that he had a bent for law, and he accordingly began a thorough study of that profession at McGill University, and from that famous institution of learning he graduated in '74, coming out with distinguished honors as gold medalist and valedictorian.

Then his more practical professional career began and he pursued a complete law course in the office of Abbott and Abbott, Montreal. When he was fully equipped with forensic knowledge and mastery of legal business, he opened an office for the practice of law in Sherbrooke, where he remained for three years, removed afterwards to Stanstead, where he has since resided, and continued his legal practice, unless when absorbed by his legislative duties. The same marked ability that made him conspicuous in his college days, accompanied him in matured and enlarged form to the various courts of law wherein he has pleaded the cause of his clients.

It is easy to conceive that a man of his fine grasp of legal questions and splendid oratorical powers would gain a foremost place at the bar. This distinction he has already achieved and he was made a Queen's Counsel in 1890.

But it was reserved upon by his hosts of friends that he should be drawn out of the comparatively confined arena of law and law-courts into the wider sphere of public usefulness where his commanding abilities could be turned to the best advantage, and where he could render services to his fellow-countrymen and to the Province

at large. This wise resolve was dictated upon and Mr. Hackett was seen by a large majority to the Provincial Legislature in March '92, as member for Stanstead County.

Once seated there, it was not long till he made his voice heard in the chamber, and when the old members heard the eloquent Irishman discuss questions of state concern, speaking with equal ease in English and French, with political wisdom and force they knew he was destined for higher legislative work. Nor did they have long to wait for he entered the Tailleur ministry in 1894, as President of the Council.

On a change of Premiers and the formation of a new Cabinet under the able leadership of Hon. E. J. Flynn, Hon. Mr. Hackett was chosen as Provincial Secretary in May, 1896, which office he still holds.

Should the hon. gentleman continue to give his services to the province it is conceded on all sides that his position is secure in the Cabinet, as it is in the hearts of his constituents, but it is not improbable that a man of Mr. Hackett's calibre will some day find his way to the Federal House at Ottawa.

It seems fitting that the able man of a nation should foregather at the national capital to solve state problems which might overtax the judgment of weaker men.

In order that the public may have more intimate acquaintance of the Hon. Michael Felix Hackett, Q.C., M.P.P., we give some brief facts concerning his domestic and private life. He was born at Granby in the Eastern Townships, Province of Quebec, on the 23rd of August, 1856. His parental scholastic and legal education being briefly detailed above, need not be repeated here; consequently we pass rapidly to the time when he assumed matrimonial responsibilities in 1882, by choosing as his estimable help-mate Miss Florence A. Knight, daughter of the highly esteemed and prominent Albert Knight Esq., ex-M.P., for Stanstead and recipient of many other offices and honors.

The issue of the blissful marriage union is five children, two sons and three daughters, all living. In Mr. Hackett's peaceful and pure domestic life he enjoys the sweetest and most comfortable that are derived from the well-ordered Christian home, and what a world of happiness it must be to him to return to that Eden of peace after his many hard fought legal and political battles.

When public men rise to distinction in political and social circles their services are eagerly sought after, and has Mr. Hackett escaped the penalty that attaches to this kind of greatness, for he became a member of the C.M.A., in 1892, and when that great association got hold of him and recognized his pronounced ability, it was resolved to turn his services to the best account, and by succession he reached the position of Grand President of the Association, which he was unanimously elected in the fall of 1896.

Under such a forceful and distinguished leader it is easy to conceive that the splendid Catholic organization will further strengthen its influence and increase its usefulness throughout the Dominion.

At his home in Stanstead Mr. Hackett is President of St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's, and St. John's Baptist societies. Outside the functions pertaining to these he shoulders many other duties and he discharges all of them with a punctuality that is refreshing and commendable. When it is stated that Hon. Mr. Hackett is the son of the late Mr. Patrick Hackett of Fintona, Co., Tyrone, Ireland, by his wife Mary Griffin, of Omagh, same county, the cause of his intense patriotic love for Ireland is at once apparent. His father was one of the earliest colonists of Granby, where he was engaged in commerce, but lost his life in the bridge accident of that place in 1809. His mother was called to her reward some years before, but although bereft of both parents at a tender age the early lessons of virtue and patriotism were not fruitless, and to-day no man either in or out of Ireland excels Hon. Mr. Hackett in his regard for the Green Isle, nor is there in the Province a more popular public man.

This latter phase is easily accounted for, as geniality and Irish warmth of heart combined with winning manners and a most eloquent tongue constitute a personality that can always find its way to the hearts of the people. Hon. M. F. Hackett is a young man just in the prime of his physical and intellectual manhood, endowed with keen perceptive faculties and calm judgment, and having already achieved an honorable record, it is only reasonable to suppose that his reputation will grow with his years.

WM. ELLISON.
Mgr. Merry Del Val.

The London Universe announces that Mgr. Merry Del Val on his return from Canada is likely to be the representative of the Pope at the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

Mr. Thomas Ballard, Syracuse, N.Y., writes: "I have been afflicted for nearly a year with that most-to-be-dreaded disease Dyspepsia, and at times worn out with pain and want of sleep, and after trying almost everything recommended, I tried one box of Parmelee's Valuable Pills. I was cured nearly well, and believe they will cure me. I would not be without them for any money."

Stratford Items.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A. F. McLaren, M. P., intends presenting the City Baseball League with a valuable trophy to be competed for by the various city teams during the ensuing season. Alack is always ready and willing to help increase the interest in this excellent out door sport.

Mr. Thomas Plummer, Manager of the Bank of Montreal, who was reported seriously ill last week, has since died.

Rev. Father Foster of Simcoe, gave a very successful concert in that town on the evening of the 17th inst. The choir of St. Joseph's church, that city, added to the making of the programme a success. We learn that a splendid time was had and that the concert was a success both socially and financially.

LATEST MARKETS.

TORONTO, March 24, 1897.

Grain receipts on the street were fairly large this morning; prices are about steady.

White wheat.....	\$0 76 1/2	\$0 00
do red.....	0 74 1/2	0 00
do good.....	0 62 1/2	0 63
Buckwheat.....	0 32 1/2	0 00
Rye.....	0 35 1/2	0 34
Oats.....	0 21 1/2	0 22
Peas.....	0 41 1/2	0 00
Barley.....	0 27 1/2	0 00
Hay.....	11 03 1/2	13 00
Straw.....	7 00	8 00
Edge, now laid.....	0 10 1/2	0 11
Ducks.....	0 60	0 80
Hutter, lb rolls.....	0 12	0 21
do lute, dairy.....	0 09	0 12
Chickens.....	0 40	0 60
Turkeys.....	0 10	0 00
Geese.....	0 08	0 00
Potatoes.....	0 18	0 23
Dressed hogs.....	6 00	6 75
Beef, hindquarters.....	4 00	5 50
do, fore.....	2 60	3 50
Lamb.....	6 50	7 50

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