

acted as one of Her Majesty's Joint High Commissioners and Plenipotentiaries appointed to deal with certain Commissioners of the United States for the settlement of the Alabama claims and of other matters pending between the United Kingdom and the United States. The work of this Commission bore fruit in the Treaty of Washington, which was signed on the 8th May, 1871.

From 1844 until the present time Sir John sat for Kingston, except for the years between 1878 and 1887, during which he represented—first, Marquette, Manitoba; next, Victoria, B.C., and then Carleton. At the General Election of 1887, the Premier was elected for both Carleton and Kingston, but naturally enough chose the representation of that constituency which had been faithful to him every time he sought the suffrages of its electors, except once, in the memorable campaign of 1878.

In dealing with all the great issues of the last forty years, the Conservative leader has again and again proven himself to be a statesman of almost infinite resource and tact, a sincere patriot, and a firm upholder of the majesty of law and order.

The veteran Premier cannot be classed among orators, yet few orators can gain and hold the attention of the House so successfully and magnetically as he did. Much of this is doubtless due to the fact that it is "Sir John" who speaks, and naturally everyone wants to know what the first man in Canada has to say; but not a little is due to the matter of Sir John's speech, which is uncommonly characteristic of him—is, indeed, *sui generis*. The Premier, in speaking, adopts that style and manner more in favour in the Imperial Parliament than in the Parliament of Canada, that is to say, he is not remarkably fluent, hesitates, indeed, almost on purpose, is matter-of-fact rather than rhetorical, and is withal never embarrassed. Sir John's discourses are, however, spiced with wit as well as with wisdom, occasionally varied, too, by a brief anecdote of that humorous kind which never fails "to bring down the House." He is very happy, also, in making a shaft of wit or merriment whenever and wherever a mark is offered. The First Minister's voice is what is called "a carrying voice;" when he chooses to exert himself, which is not always, his words are distinctly heard in