

the 27th of February, 1873, and left it on the 8th September, 1874, upon the voluntary resignation of that Government. On the 27th January, 1876, he entered the De Boucherville Government as Provincial Secretary, a position which he held up to the Letellier *coup d'état*. After the Provincial Elections of May, 1878, he became leader of the Conservative party at Quebec, and on the 30th October, 1879, after having overthrown the Joly Government, he was sent for by Lieutenant-Governor Robitaille to form a Cabinet. In this government he himself took the portfolio of Railways and Public Works. On the 29th of July, 1882, he resigned, to be replaced by the Honourable J. A. Mousseau, while he himself succeeded the latter at Ottawa as Secretary of State of Canada. The 4th of July, 1884, he was sent to British Columbia as President of the Royal Commission on Chinese immigration. On this subject he published a remarkable report; and the suggestions put forth by him and adopted by the Government, averted a crisis which threatened grave complications in the Pacific Province. Some years ago he established the Government Printing Bureau at Ottawa, a work of enormous importance and which his influence alone has made a success.

Ill health has cruelly tried Mr. Chapleau, and he would probably have gone to "the bourne whence no traveller returns," if he had not withdrawn from the Provincial Leadership in 1882. After entering the Cabinet at Ottawa, he was enabled to pass the summer and autumn in Europe, then the winter in Southern California. As his mother, one of his brothers, and one of his sisters died of consumption, the same fate threatened him; and it was only by reason of the precautions taken at that critical time that he was saved, and remains to-day without the least trace, or even the least threat, of his old malady.

Without fear of contradiction it can be said that few personalities loom larger in public esteem and admiration in the Dominion of Canada than Mr. Chapleau. It could not well be otherwise with a man of his talent, who has been a militant politician since 1859, that is to say, for thirty-two years; who has been a member of the Legislature and of Parliament for twenty-four years; a member of different Cabinets for fifteen years; who may be truly said to have,