

career, acted with the Conservative Party, and was always regarded as belonging to that side of politics, though he conducted himself with great independence, and recorded his votes irrespective of Party considerations. On the great question of Confederation he differed widely from those with whom he usually acted. He attacked the project as immature, faulty in detail, and likely to lead to embarrassments and confusions worse than those it was designed to remove. Though suffering from illness at the time of the Confederation debate, he made a long and impressive speech wherein he assailed nearly every proposition of the Quebec Conference of 1864. Eventually, however, when it became apparent that no opposition on his part would be effective in defeating the project, he, during the session of 1866, avowed his determination to assist in making the then proposed Confederation beneficial to the country at large. He took an active part in maturing the necessary preparatory legislation, and was one of the most prominent advocates of the educational interests of the minorities in both Upper and Lower Canada. In 1867 he was created a Queen's Counsel.

In July, 1867, he was invited by the Hon. Mr. Chauveau to join the Local Cabinet of the Province of Quebec. He accepted the invitation, and entered the Quebec Cabinet as Provincial Treasurer. His duties in this position were necessarily of an intricate character, from the unsettled accounts between the two sections of the old Province and the Dominion. In the negotiations that took place towards the final adjudication of these claims he acted with considerable deliberation, but it cannot be said that he acted otherwise than in accordance with his pledge as given in 1866, to exert his utmost influence to make the Union a success. He occupied the post of Provincial Treasurer of Quebec until the month of November, 1869, when he accept-

ed office in the Dominion Cabinet as Minister of Agriculture and Statistics. The resignation of the Hon. (now Sir) John Rose had left the British population of Quebec without a representative in the Privy Council, and Mr. Dunkin, who enjoyed the fullest confidence of his large and influential constituency, and was held in high personal esteem by all classes of the community, was regarded as a fitting substitute for Mr. Rose. He held office until the 25th of October, 1871, when he was elevated to a seat on the Judicial Bench as a Puisné Judge of the Superior Court of Quebec, as successor to the late Hon. Mr. Justice Short. He filled that position until his death, which took place at his home at Knowlton, near Montreal, on the 6th of January last. He was succeeded as Minister of Agriculture by the gentleman who now holds that office—the Hon. John Henry Pope.

As a legislator Mr. Dunkin obtained wide recognition by the Act (respecting the sale of intoxicating liquors and the issue of licenses therefor) which is commonly coupled with his name, but which is more correctly intitled the Canada Temperance Act of 1864. This important measure has since been frequently amended, and portions of it have been repealed. Such clauses of it as are still in force are embodied in the Canada Temperance Act of 1878. A Canadian writer portraying Mr. Dunkin during his tenure of office as Minister of Agriculture referred in the following terms to that gentleman's career as a legislator: "In proportion to his physical strength, Mr. Dunkin is a man of extraordinary mental energy. As a Parliamentary debater he is distinguished by the closeness of his reasoning; in fact, he has sometimes been regarded as reasoning so closely as to demolish both sides of the question, and leave his audience in utter perplexity. The elaboration of detail, which is a characteristic of the legal mind, frequently obscures the