

to "that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller returns." This was the great loss of his life, for a year or two later his father emigrated to Canada, and settled on a farm back of Montreal, on the Isle of Jesus, where there were no schools, and the lad had no schooling, and no tutor. After farming there a few seasons, the father brought his family, consisting of three children, to Ottawa.

In 1840, Mr. Skead went into the woods, a distance of 120 miles, west of Ottawa, taking with him a squad of men and provisions for fall operations. The only means of transportation were bark canoes, and he made thirty-seven portages before reaching his destination, the voyage consuming nine days. That was forty years ago, and Mr. Skead is still in the lumber business. Like most other merchants in his line, during the last five or six years, he has met with some losses; but during more than thirty years he had almost uninterrupted prosperity.

Mr. Skead is President of the Dominion Board of Trade, and is President of the Ottawa Board of Trade; of the Ottawa Agricultural Insurance Society; of the City of Ottawa Agricultural Society; of the Ottawa Liberal Conservative Association, and of the Upper Ottawa Steamboat Company. He is a Director of the Ottawa Association of Lumber Manufacturers; of the Madawaska River Improvement Company; of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, and was a Director of the Caughnawaga Ship Canal Company; of the Canada Central Railway; and of the Montreal and Ottawa City Junction Railway, and other railroad companies, being still a Director of one or two of them.

He has been a member of the Corporation of the City of Ottawa; President of the Agricultural and Arts Association of Ontario, and of the Ottawa St. George's Society, which body, in 1876, presented him with a beautiful gold cross of St. George, for valuable services in promoting the interests of the Society. In the year last named—the Centennial of the United States—he was appointed a juror of the Timber Department and Products of the Forests in the great International Exposition, held in Philadelphia.

The politics of Mr. Skead have always been Conservative. In 1867, he contested Carleton for the Ontario Assembly, at the general election, and was unsuccessful. He represented Rideau Division in the Legislative Council, Canada, from 1862 until the Union, being elected twice by acclamation, and was called to the Senate by Royal Proclamation, at the time of the Confederation, in May, 1867. He was President of the Liberal Conservative Convention, which met in Toronto, in September, 1874.

Though a lumber manufacturer for forty years, Senator Skead has never lost his interest in agricultural pursuits, which claimed his youthful attention and energies. As President of the Ottawa Agricultural Society, he is something more than a "figure head," his heart is in its objects, and he does all he can to promote them. Years ago he imported Ayrshire and Durham cattle, and now has some fine short-horn stock, which he takes pride in exhibiting at county and other fairs, receiving a liberal share of the premiums.