

former was immensely impressed with Donald Smith's powerful personality, and made a tour into the "Wild West" practically at his instigation. There seemed to be no limit to the activities of the man. He worked unceasingly himself, and he made others work.

He had a great belief in Sir John Macdonald, but was never a violent partisan. From first to last his proponderating passion was to see Canada expand in population, commerce, and industrial resources. He had the true spirit of the pioneer—restless, enterprising, dauntless; and his faith and the energies were to culminate in the Canadian Pacific Railway, his enduring monument. The determination and courage with which he fought this through were beyond praise. Opposition, timidity, incredulity, derision—all had to be encountered.

His faith in the project was supported by his intimate and peculiar knowledge of Canada, and by his optimistic vision of the future of the country. Backed by his cousin, George Stephen (Lord Mount Stephen), he made his dream a reality. For a long time financiers looked askance at the scheme and even his partners urged him to abandon the project. But Donald Smith never faltered. He hazarded his own money (by this time he was a rich man), and he was unwearied in his efforts to draw in the money of others. At various stages it seemed as if the enterprise might be brought to a standstill for want of cash, but always he managed to save the situation. There is a tradition in Canada that he was so deeply involved himself that he imperilled his very shirt. His conviction was intense that if the railway could be made it would recoup everybody, and he was resolved that it should be made. Dauntless energy of this kind was bound to have its reward, and in November, 1885, it was his pride and gratification to drive in the last spike of the completed railway, amidst the acclamations of an Empire. In the following year he was made a K.C.M.G., later he received the Grand Cross of the same Order, and in the Diamond Jubilee he was raised to the Peerage, taking the title of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal.