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Canadian Celebrities—No. 10.

The Commissioner of Railways for the Province of Quebec was born at St. Thorese, County of Terrebonne, on the 9th November, 1840. He is consequently in the forty-second year of his age. Like many of our best and most justly celebrated men, he belongs to a family of workmen. His father was, and is still, an humble contractor. He received his education at the College of Terrebonne and at St. Hyacinthe. He was called to the Bar in 1861, and made a Q.C. in 1873. At the first Parliament after Confederation, he was elected by acclamation, member of the Legislature of Quebec, for his native County of Terrebonne, and has succeeded since that date in retaining the unanimous political support of the previously so much divided County. In 1873, he was called to the Quebec Local Government, as Solicitor-General, by the Hon. M. Ouimet, then Premier. He resigned with his chief after the Tanneries affair in September, 1874, but was recalled in the De Boucherville Government as Provincial Secretary, in January, 1876. He was still a minister at the time of Governor Letellier's *coup d'état* on 2nd March, 1878, and at that time followed the fortunes of his discarded party. He became by common consent the leader of the struggle, and for nearly three years he was constantly in the front of the battle. This has been, and will be, certainly, the most eventful portion of his career. At the subsequent election, the two parties were returned even; it was a political dead heat, but the Speaker, M. Turcotte, gave in his adhesion to the Government. M. Chapleau, as leader of the Opposition, marshalled his forces on the hustings,



HON. JOSEPH ADOLPHE CHAPLEAU,
Premier of the Province of Quebec, and Commissioner of Railways.

By G. E. Desharats' Auto-Type Process—From Photograph by Emile Tourtin, Paris.

in the press and in the Assembly. He was almost ubiquitous, and never failed to face the conflict, never missing an opportunity, and what is perhaps more extraordinary, did not lose one vote. His party was as compact, as hopeful, as staunch, and as numerically strong after two years, as it was at the opening of the Parliament. He had not lost one single vote. After the exortions that are still in the memory of everyone, the Lieutenant-Governor Letellier was notified that "his usefulness was gone," and the Honourable M. Robitaille succeeded him. When M. Joly found himself in a minority, M. Chapleau was called to form a new ministry, and he still holds the position of the leader of his party, having in the same time under his charge the Department of Provincial Railways. M. Chapleau is essentially a self-made man, and he seems to have foreseen, from his younger years, the position that awaited him, and always to have acted and worked with that aim in view. M. Chapleau possesses in a remarkable degree a bright intelligence, is a persuasive orator and a most fluent speaker. He is considerably indebted to his mellifluous voice and his sympathetic and remarkable features. When he is at his best, when his sympathies are excited, and he is moved with oratorical fervour, his figure is a perfect study: his clear, keen eyes, brightened with anger or pathos, his hair flowing luxuriantly over his well-shaped head, he looks the very *beau idéal* of the orator. He is eminently intelligent, nothing is beyond his grasp. When he gained the reputation of being one of the most brilliant and most successful criminal lawyers, in