

eral for Upper Canada from September 11, 1854, to July 29, 1858, when, as Prime Minister, he and his Cabinet resigned, being defeated on the seat of government question. On the 6th of August, same year, he returned to office as Postmaster-General, but resigned that office the following day, he being re-appointed Attorney-General of Upper Canada, a position which he continued to hold until the defeat of the Administration on the Militia Bill, in May, 1862, at which time he and his colleagues once more retired from office. He and Sir George E. Cartier led the opposition in the Assembly till the defeat of the Sandfield Macdonald-Dorion Government, when the Taché-Macdonald Government was formed on the 30th of March, 1864, and he returned to the office of Attorney-General, and was Government leader in the Assembly from that date until the union of the British American Provinces, in 1867. While Attorney-General, he also held the office of Minister of Militia affairs from January to May, 1862, and from August 1865 until the union two years later. He was offered the position of Prime Minister in 1865, on the death of Sir E. P. Taché, then holding that office, but generously waived his claim in favor of Sir N. F. Belleau.

The present Prime Minister has performed many important duties as delegate to England and other countries. In 1864 he was a member of the conference held at Charlottetown, for the purpose of effecting a union of the Maritime Provinces; to that which succeeded it in Quebec in the same year, to arrange a basis of union of the British American colonies, and was chairman of the London Colonial Conference in 1866-7, when the Act of union, known as the "British North America Act," was passed by the Imperial Parliament. When the new constitution took effect—July 1, 1867—he was invited to form the first government for the New Dominion, and was sworn of the Privy Council and was appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada, holding that office until he and his ministry resigned on the Pacific Railway charges, November 6, 1873. Two years prior to this date he was appointed one of Her Majesty's five joint High Commissioners and Plenipotentiaries, to act in connection with five Commissioners named by the President of the United States, for the settlement of the Alabama claims, and of matters in dispute between the two countries; the labors of this Commission resulting in the treaty of Washington, D. C., where it was signed on the 8th of May, 1871.

The present Prime Minister was appointed a member of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, in July, 1872; was unanimously elected leader of the Canadian Liberal Conservative Opposition, on the 6th of November, 1873; sat for Kingston, in the Canadian Assembly, from November, 1844, until the union; was returned for the same seat in the House of Commons at the general elections in 1867, 1872 and 1877; was unseated on petition, November 21, 1874, and re-elected December 29, same year. He became Prime Minister, the position he now holds, on the defeat of the Reform party at the general elections held in September, 1878. During the many years that Sir John has been a member of Parliament, he has carried through a large number of important measures besides the confederation of British North America and the