

nearly 20 years and was president in 1938; that Mr. Celby has been County Engineer and Road Superintendent of Kent County for over 25 years, president of the association in 1937, and very active in reviving interest in it during the pre-war depression period; that Mr. Moore was County Engineer of Kenfrew for almost a quarter of a century before becoming a member of the Ontario Municipal Board and, then, your president; and that Mr. McLeod has spent several fruitful years in highway research both in Saskatchewan and in this province and was the first Canadian to receive the American Highway Research Board's annual distinction. In doing honour to them to-night, we are all honouring ourselves, because we are expressing faith in and appreciation of public service for ourselves and for our fellow-citizens.

You will notice that I wish to be included, because for the last few years, I feel that I too have been devoting my time and energies to making democratic institutions efficient and fruitful, in this Canada of ours.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the assumption by Canadians of responsibility for the administration of their own affairs.

The first strictly responsible party government in British North America was organized at Halifax on the 2nd of February 1848. On the 25th of January 1848, the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia had voted no confidence in the Executive Council. Acting on Lord Gray's instructions, Sir John Harvey, then governor of that province, sent for J. B. Uniacke and requested him to form a government which could command a majority in the House of Representatives. In February of the same year, the Ministry was defeated in the Legislative Assembly of the United Canadas then sitting in Montreal, and Lord Elgin sent for the Leaders of the Opposition, Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine and Robert Baldwin, and their Cabinet assumed responsibility for advising His Excellency on the 10th of March 1848.

This was the logical outcome of the fight that had been going on for years and which had led to the outbreak of 1837. As all will recall, after the rebellion, Lord Durham had been sent out as Governor-in-Chief, with authority to restore order and tranquillity, to enquire into the causes of the rebellion and to suggest measures for the future. The report he made has since been looked upon as the greatest constitutional document in British Colonial history.

Joseph Howe, the great Nova-Scotian leader, had written about the "Chateau clique" of Lower Canada, the "Family Compact" of Upper Canada and similar groups in other provinces, and the position of the Governor and of the elected assemblies that the Governor might flutter and struggle in the net, as some well-meaning governors had done, but that he must finally resign himself to being content with the narrow limits assigned him by his keepers and that he had never known a Governor who, even with the best intentions and with the full concurrence of the representative branch, backed with the confidence of his Sovereign, was able to contend on anything like fair terms with the small knot of functionaries who formed the Councils, filled the offices and wielded the powers of government. In his view, that was because while the Governor was amenable to his Sovereign through the Colonial Secretary, and the members of the Assembly were controlled by their constituents, the clique were only responsible to themselves and could always protect and sustain each other, whether assailed by the representatives of the Sovereign or the representatives of the people, and even that was not the whole story. In the Canadas, the situation was further complicated by the clash between the English and the French. In his report, Lord Durham wrote that he had, as he expected to, found a contest between a

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