Macdonald Govt. was formed 30 March, 1864, and he returned to his old office of Attorney-General, and was Govt. leader in the Assem., from that time until the Union of the B.A. Provinces, 1867. Held the office of Minister of Militia Affairs jointly with that of Attorney-General, from Jan. to May 1862, and from Aug., 1865, until the Union. Was requested to take the place of Sir E. P. Taché as Prime Minister, on the death of that gentleman in 1865, but waived his claim in favor of Sir N. F. Belleau. Has been a delegate to England and other countries on public business on many occasions, and was a delegate to the Conference in Charlottetown in 1864, which had been convened for the purpose of effecting a Union of the Maritime Provinces, to that which succeeded in Quebec, same year, to arrange basis of Union of all B.A. Colonies; and was Chairman of the London Colonial Conference, 1866-7, when the Act of Union known as the "British North America Act," was passed by the Imperial Parlt. On 1 July, 1867, when the New Constitution came into force, was called upon to form the first Govt, for the new Dominion. and was sworn of the Privy Council and was apptd. Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Can., an office he continued to fill until he and his Ministry resigned on the Pacific Railway charges, 6 Nov. 1873. On the resignation of the Reform Administration. Oct., 1878, formed the present Government, in which he became Minister of the Interior. Resigned this portfolio and became President of the Council and Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs, 17 Oct., 1883. Resigned these portfolios 28 Nov., 1889, and became Minister of Railways and Canals. In 1871 was appointed one of Her Majesty's Joint High Commissioners and Plenipotentiaries, together with Earl de Grey (now Marquis of Ripon), the late Sir Stafford Northcote, Sir Edward Thornton, and Right Hon. Montague Bernard, to act in connection with the five commissioners named by the President of the United States, for the settlement of the Alabama claims, and of matters in dispute between Great Britain and the United States, the labors of which Joint High Commission resulted in the Treaty of Washington, signed at Washington, U.S., on 8 May, 1871. Received degree of D.C.L., (hon.) from Oxford Univ., 1865. Is also LL.D. of Queen's Univ., Kingston, and of McGill, Univ., Montreal, and a D.C.L. of Univ. of Trinity Coll., Toronto. Created K.C.B. (civil) July, 1867, and a G.C.B., Nov., 1884. Created a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal