

held in January, 1874, he was defeated, and the next year was sent to the Legislative Council for the Wellington division, of which body he is still a member. He has done much good work as a legislator, and is the author of several bills which became laws, but none of them, perhaps, of sufficient importance to be more particularly mentioned. He is a Conservative.

Mr. Webb has been mayor of Melbourne, and the first warden of the county of Richmond, and has been a trustee of St. Francis college, Richmond, since its commencement. He is a leading man in the county, and highly respected for his public spirit, and other good qualities. He is a churchman, and has been a delegate to the synod at different times. Men like him constitute a portion of the best kind of wealth of a country.

In 1846, Mr. Webb married Isabella A. W. Morris, daughter of the late Lieut.-Col. William Morris, of the 97th regiment, and they have had seven children, losing one of them.

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JOHN WILLIAM DAWSON, principal of McGill college and one of the leading scientific men on this continent, was born at Pictou, Nova Scotia, on the 13th of October, 1820, his parents being James and Mary Rankine Dawson. The branch of the Dawson family to which his father belonged was from the north of Scotland. He received his academic training in the college of Pictou, when it was under the principalship of the Rev. Dr. McCulloch, and regarded as one of the best institutions of the kind in that province. Before he had fairly entered upon his academic studies, when, in fact, only ten years old, our subject began to collect fossil plants of the coal period; and during the time that he was prosecuting his college studies, he made extensive collections in natural history, and showed a taste for scientific inquiry and a talent for original investigation. After finishing his college course, Mr. Dawson proceeded to Scotland, and devoted one winter to study at the university of Edinburgh; then returned to Nova Scotia, and entered with renewed vigor and great zest upon geological research, more particularly with reference to the rocks and fossils of the Carboniferous period. In 1842 and again in 1852, he accompanied Sir Charles Lyell in his geological explorations in Nova Scotia. While with the great geologist he aided materially in field investigations which threw much light upon both the flora and fauna of the Carboniferous period and the classification of the Carboniferous formations in British America. With Sir Charles Lyell, "he discovered the bones of the earliest known carboniferous reptile of America; he himself found the oldest land-snail and the oldest millipede. In 1864 Dr. Dawson, by his microscopic skill and comprehensive insight, recognised the foraminiferal structure of *Eozoon Canadense*, and after a sharp