

THE PREMIER DEAD.

Sir John S. D. Thompson No More.

He Expired at Windsor Castle after having been Sworn in as Privy Councillor of the United Kingdom.

A GRAND CAREER SUDDENLY ENDED.

Canada Mourns a Statesman, an Orator, a Most Gifted and Distinguished Son.

LATE DETAILS OF THE SAD EVENT.

When the news of the sudden death of Sir John Thompson, Premier of Canada, flashed across the Atlantic, on Wednesday last, our issue for the week was already mailed to our subscribers. The despatch then received ran as follows:—

LONDON, December 12. — Sir John Thompson, the Canadian premier, died suddenly at Windsor castle at 1.45 this afternoon. At the time he was lunching in the Octagon room of the palace in company with the Marquis of Ripon, colonial secretary; Mr. Henry Hartley Fowler, secretary, of state for India; Mr. Arnold Morley, postmaster-general; the Marquis of Breadalbane and some other ladies and gentleman.

He left Paddington station in a special train at 12 o'clock to-day in company with the gentlemen mentioned above, for Windsor, for the purpose of attending a meeting of the Privy council, to which he was to be sworn. He had also been invited to dine with Her Majesty and to spend the night at Windsor.

After the meeting of the council, lunch was served in the Octagon room. The last moments of Sir John's life are thus related by the Marquis of Breadalbane: I saw Sir John on the platform at Paddington to-day and travelled to Windsor in the same saloon with him. He appeared to be all right then, and afterwards at the meeting. After he was sworn, he retired to the luncheon room, and while we were sitting there he suddenly fainted. One of the servants and I, each took an arm and got him into the next room, and placed him beside the window. I got some water, and sent the servant for brandy. In a short time he recovered somewhat and seemed much distressed at having made what he regarded as a scene, remarking: "It seems too weak and foolish to faint like this."

"I replied: 'One does not faint on

purpose; pray do not distress yourself about the matter.'

"He then begged me to return to my luncheon, but, of course, I would not hear to this. I remained with him until he seemed to have completely recovered, and he rose to accompany me back to the luncheon room.

"I offered him my arm, but he walked unaided.

"He cheerfully remarked: 'I am all right now, thanks.'

"Dr. Reid, the Queen's physician, whom I had sent for, arrived.

"Within two or three minutes after Sir John's return to the luncheon room, and, I believe, before he tasted his cutlet or whatever had been placed before him, I saw him suddenly lurch over and fall almost into Dr. Reid's arms.

"At the request of the doctor the ladies at the table all went out. The doctor, I and some servants alone remained. We did all possible, but felt his pulse and

and sympathy with his widow when the news was announced to her. Sir Charles Tupper, Canadian high commissioner in London, was summoned to Windsor by a special courier shortly afterwards. He arrived at 7 o'clock this evening, rode directly to the castle, and was received by Her Majesty at once. He had a long audience, during which the Queen is understood to have communicated to him several messages of grief and sympathy.

The news of Sir John's death spread rapidly in official and political circles in London, and many Canadian and English politicians called at Sir Charles Tupper's office between four and six o'clock to express their sorrow. Several members of the American colony also left cards. Telegrams were received from Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham and Edinburgh, also innumerable messages of profound sorrow, all gratefully acknowledging the eminent

exemplary character. Both Canada and Great Britain have lost a most capable administrator, on whom they might have relied for many years to meet everything with coolness and sagacity. It was only on December 2nd he was telling me of the great satisfaction he felt in finding the result of the arbitration to be a practical solution of the Behring Sea difficulty. He was most sanguine that the Paris award would prove to be the permanent settlement of all the disputed questions. He mentioned to me that he was suffering somewhat from ill-health, but he said there was nothing to indicate more than temporary indisposition. I am sure that the recognition of his services expressed by his appointment to the Privy Council was hailed with as much pleasure in Canada as in England. The shock produced by his death cannot now be intimated as regards its final effect."

The Court Circular.

The Court Circular, on Sir John Thompson's death, says:—To the Queen's very great regret the Hon. Sir John Thompson, K.C.M.G., P.C., Premier and Minister of Justice in Canada, who had just been sworn in as a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council, died suddenly of syncope, a few minutes after leaving the Council room. Sir John had mentioned that he was suffering from heart affection, for which he had been undergoing medical treatment and he was feeling unwell upon his arrival. Dr. Reid was present at the moment of his seizure and rendered every possible assistance.

Sir John's Last Speech.

At Tuesday evening's meeting of the Colonial Institute, at which Sir Charles Tupper presided, and where the Hon. Henry Wrixon read a paper on the Inter-Colonial Conference at Ottawa, Sir John Thompson was present. He sat in the rear of the hall, and appeared to be in low spirits. When he arose and addressed the meeting it was noticed that he spoke in a husky voice, and he apologized for the brevity of his remarks, saying that he was indisposed.

THE PREMIER'S LAST SPEECH.

Sir John Thompson said: "I wish the strength at my disposal this evening would enable me to express all I feel in sympathy with the Colonial Institute and my appreciation of the paper we have just heard. The Ottawa conference had for its primary and significant feature the appreciation of the whole people of the Dominion. It was impossible to have exceeded the enthusiasm felt with the objects of that conference even in the most remote parts of that country. A good deal had been said about meetings of that kind being characterized by a display of sentiment and sentimentality. For my part, I look upon it as one of the great achievements of the conference, one of the great justifications for the conference that the sentiment of the people of Canada responded instinctively at the first mention of the preparations for that assembly. (Cheers.)

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The French Chamber of Deputies have voted to adopt the proposed commercial arrangement with Canada.



RT. HON. SIR JOHN S. D. THOMPSON, P.C., K.C.M.G., Q.C.
Premier, Minister of Justice, and Attorney-General of Canada.

felt confident that no aid would avail him. The doctor held the same view, which unhappily proved to be but too true. So far as I could see Sir John had been in good health up to the first seizure, but I believe he told Dr. Reid that he had pains in his chest. The cause of death undoubtedly was the sudden failure of the heart's action."

The Morning Post is informed that Dr. Reid gave a certificate of death from syncope: therefore, no inquest is likely to be made.

Her Majesty Deeply Affected.

All reports agree that the Queen is deeply moved by Sir John Thompson's death. She expressed profound regret

services rendered to the Empire by the deceased statesman.

A Tribute From Sir Richard Webster.

Sir Richard Webster, ex-attorney-general, whose close acquaintance with the late premier was both personal and political, said in an interview Wednesday evening:—"I have long regarded him as a most remarkable man. In the Behring Sea arbitration in Paris, last year, he discharged his functions in a dignified and judicial manner, giving a striking example of firmness and impartiality throughout the proceedings. Everybody who had a part in the arbitration was convinced of his high ability and sound judgment. He had a most upright and