

early youth, and have lasted to the hour of his death. His part in the political affairs of Canada has not been insignificant, for he entered into public life at an early age. He was summoned to the Legislative Council of the late Province of Canada in 1848—then in the thirty-first year of his age—and some years later was appointed Solicitor General in the Baldwin-Lafontaine Administration. Subsequently he was Attorney General for Upper Canada, and Speaker of the Legislative Council. In 1858, he joined the Government of the day, and accepted the office of Receiver General, and still later the Presidency of the Executive Council, uniting with it the duties of Minister of Agriculture and Statistics. His aptness for official life was well illustrated by the readiness with which he adapted himself to the duties of the various offices he filled. Those who have only known him since the Union cannot appreciate his strong determination and his political experience and tact, as well as others who were acquainted with him for a longer term of years. Few men were better able to instruct us in constitutional principles than he was. Like Mr. Crawford he was unswerving in his political alliances, and always anxious to do good for his country, but whilst unwavering in his opinions, he could make allowance for those who conscientiously differed from him. It is needless I should detail at length the many services he performed for the country in the course of his political career. Well do I remember his part in the settlement of a question which long agitated this country, namely, the Clergy Reserves. It was owing very much to his exertions in England—particularly to his determination of character and his thorough comprehension of the question—that the bill was passed through Parliament, which enabled us to deal with that question. On that occasion, he had many powerful influences to contend against. Men of high position in Ontario were exercising their influence in England—in the House of Lords and in the Commons; he nevertheless succeeded in achieving his object. We also know the great interest he took in the Grand Trunk Railway, and the ability and perseverance with which he managed its affairs when connected with the management of that important work in its inception. But these are mere items in the long list of his useful public services. I would fain say more, but as I speak, my feelings overpower me, and I must ask the House to excuse me from adding more at present.

**Hon. Mr. Letellier de St Just**—I will add very little to what has been said by the Hon. Postmaster General. I feel that he sincerely regrets the loss of Mr. Ross and Mr. Crawford. Although I cannot go as far as the hon. member in speaking of their political services, yet I know that they were both just and honest in

tard, il fut nommé solliciteur général dans le ministère Baldwin-Lafontaine, puis occupa les postes de procureur général du Haut-Canada, et d'orateur du Conseil législatif. En 1858, il accepta la charge de receveur général puis celle de président du Conseil exécutif tout en étant ministre de l'Agriculture et de la Statistique. La promptitude avec laquelle il s'est adapté aux tâches de ses diverses fonctions prouve son aptitude à la vie publique. Ceux qui ne le connaissaient que depuis la Confédération ne peuvent apprécier sa grande fermeté, son expérience politique et son tact de la même façon que ceux qui le fréquentaient depuis nombre d'années. Peu d'hommes pouvaient nous en apprendre davantage que M. Ross en matière de principes constitutionnels. De même que M. Crawford, il était inébranlable dans ses alliances politiques et toujours désireux d'agir dans l'intérêt de son pays; quoique ferme dans ses opinions, il respectait ceux qui en conscience, étaient en désaccord avec lui. Point n'est besoin d'énumérer longuement tous les services qu'il a rendus au pays durant sa carrière politique. Je me souviens très bien du rôle qu'il a joué dans le règlement d'une question qui a longtemps bouleversé ce pays, c'est-à-dire les réserves du clergé. Si le Parlement a adopté la loi qui a permis de trancher cette question, c'est en grande partie dû aux efforts que M. Ross a déployés en Angleterre et surtout à cause de son caractère résolu et de sa pleine compréhension de la question. Il dut à ce moment-là lutter contre de fortes oppositions. En effet des personnages haut placés en Ontario exerçaient leur influence en Angleterre à la Chambre des Lords et à la Chambre des Communes; mais il a tout de même atteint son but. Nous savons aussi tout l'intérêt qu'il a porté à la construction du chemin de fer Grand-Tronc et avec quelle compétence et persévérance il a participé à la gestion de cet important projet lors des premiers travaux. Mais ce ne sont là que quelques-uns des grands services qu'il a rendus au pays. Je m'étendrais volontiers sur le sujet, mais tandis que je parle je ne peux contenir mon émotion et je prie la Chambre de me dispenser de poursuivre davantage.

**L'honorable M. Letellier de St Just**: J'ajouterai très peu de commentaires au discours de l'honorable ministre des Postes. Je pense qu'il déplore sincèrement la perte de MM. Ross et Crawford. Bien que je ne puisse en dire autant que M. Campbell au sujet des services politiques qu'ils ont rendus au pays, je sais qu'ils