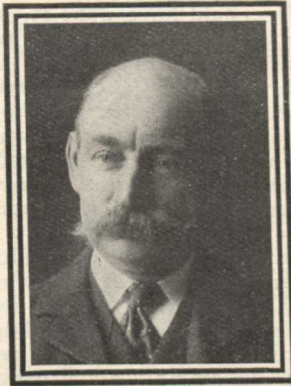


Personalities

HON. R. G. TATLOW.



Hon. R. G. Tatlow.

In British Columbia, they couple the departments of finance and agriculture under one head, and the Minister who now holds that portfolio is Hon. Robert G. Tatlow. He held the same portfolio under the previous McBride administration since June, 1903, and was re-elected and reappointed to the office at the last general election early this year.

HON. FRANK OLIVER.

Mr. Tatlow is a County Down Irishman, but was educated at Cheltenham in England. He first contested Vancouver city in the Conservative interests in 1894 but was unsuccessful. He was returned, however, at the general election of 1900 and again in 1903. He has the finances of the province at his fingers' ends, and like all public spirited men in British Columbia, is deeply interested in developing the industries of the province. In addition to the department of agriculture over which he presides, he has paid a good deal of attention to the condition of the lumber industry.

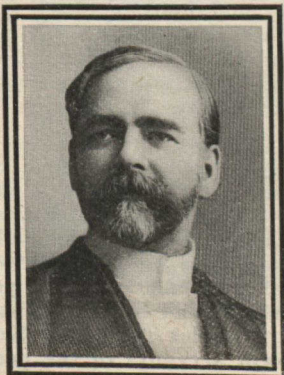
To glance casually at Hon. Frank Oliver, few would suspect that he was guilty of following politics as a business. Rather would they take him for a Western frontiersman who could shoot at the drop of a hat—or perhaps hold up an occasional stage coach when things were dull. But appearances are sometimes deceptive, and Mr. Oliver has only to thank the brigand-like moustache which he wears for the false impression conveyed.

The fact is, Mr. Oliver is very much of a politician—of the stormy petrel kind. Like all men who have risen to the front by their own efforts, he has received some hard knocks, but he can give a few too when occasion arises. He is very popular in his constituency of Edmonton, Alberta, and when he was appointed Minister of the Interior in the Laurier Administration in April, 1905, his constituents did him the honour of re-electing him by acclamation.

Though born in Ontario, he went to the West when a young man and became a member of the old North-West Council in '1883' at the age of thirty, and entered the Dominion House first as an Independent in 1896, but as a Liberal since 1900. He is remembered of late as having figured prominently in the North Atlantic Trading Company affair in the session of 1906 in which it was charged that the Department of the Interior had made an improper contract with this company with the object of inducing European immigrants to come to Canada. The charges shared the fate of all charges made against a government with a substantial majority behind it.

Mr. Oliver, however, has to his credit the Forest Reserve Act of 1906, some important regulations as to placer mining in the Yukon and certain important amendments to the immigration laws. His department is keeping up the good record made by it under Mr. Sifton in immigration.

HON. W. A. WEIR.



Hon. W. A. Weir.

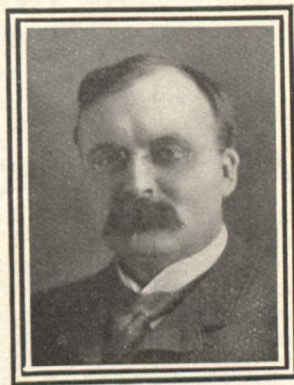
A man who looms prominently on the horizon of public affairs in Quebec is Hon. W. A. Weir, since August, 1906, Minister of Public Works and Labour. Previous to that he was Speaker of the Legislature in the present Gouin Ministry, and was also minister without portfolio in the previous Parent administration. He is known to all observers of current Canadian affairs as an intelligent stu-

dent of Quebec's problems, being particularly active in endeavouring to improve the educational facilities of the province, especially along elementary and technical lines.

He has, also, made himself thoroughly familiar with the agricultural, lumbering and transportation conditions of his native province, and is an advocate of increased railroad mileage as a means of developing the resources of the province. Speaking before the Canadian Club at Montreal last fall he made the remarkable statement that out of the 351,000 square miles in Quebec, but 3 per cent. was as yet under cultivation for agricultural purposes! An idea of the vast timber wealth of the Province may be gained from a statement by Mr. Weir before the Empire Club of Toronto in April, 1906, when he said that if the forests were to be sold out now the province would receive as a bonus some 18,000,000, and for stumpage fees, if the trees were cut immediately, no less than \$420,000,000!

Mr. Weir was a delegate to the inter-provincial conference at Ottawa in October last, the echoes of which are still ringing in the memories of all readers of the press.

HON. W. J. HANNA.



Hon. W. J. Hanna.

The estimate of Hon. W. J. Hanna that was formed at the time of his appointment as Provincial Secretary in February, 1905, that he was clear headed and vigorous in his handling of public questions, appears to have been abundantly justified, as men all over Ontario who have tried to sell liquor illegally or after hours are doubtless well aware. An intimation of what law breakers might expect in this branch of his department was tersely given by him shortly before the new legislation was introduced, in the words "this department expects the law to be enforced."

In view of the manner in which he has "made good," the latest rumour—that he is to succeed Hon. J. J. Foy as Attorney-General within a year—is interesting. Mr. Hanna is the youngest member of the Cabinet—he is only 45, he has proved himself a good administrator, he is an excellent debater and platform speaker, and without a doubt he is a coming man.

He is persevering also, as a glance at the broad square jaw would tell, for he was defeated twice for the Commons in West Lambton in 1896 and 1900 before he finally broke into the Legislature in 1902 and again in 1905. In addition to the Liquor License Bill, Mr. Hanna also handled the government legislation by which the Toronto General Hospital was placed on an entirely new basis.

MR. G. T. BELL.

More than one-quarter of the passenger earnings of Canadian railways go into the purse of the Grand Trunk Railway system, and the man who directs the traffic for that railway is Mr. G. T. Bell.

His term of service has been long and continuous, as he began business life with the Great Western and passed into his present service when that road was taken over by the Grand Trunk. When Mr. Hays reorganised the road and put new life into its management, he found it advantageous to promote Mr. Bell to higher rank. Besides managing his department efficiently, Mr. Bell has been able to make a reputation as a popular official. This is a winning combination.



Mr. G. T. Bell.