

These marks of confidence he accepted in the winter of 1887-88, and, until the 13th of June, 1891, continued to act as leader of the Senate and member of the Privy Council without remuneration or portfolio.

At the beginning of the session of 1891, he was invited by Sir John Macdonald to accept the portfolio of President of the Council, retaining his position in the Senate, and, though his appointment was not actually made, he performed the duties of that department until the lamented death of Sir John Macdonald, in June, 1891.

On the 13th of that month, Mr. Abbott accepted the trust committed to him by His Excellency the Governor-General as Prime Minister of Canada, and he was called, on the Tuesday following, to proceed with the business of the country before Parliament without any break in its continuity, or any change in its policy. His former colleagues, with great unanimity, consented to continue to occupy their former positions in the Cabinet, and, although the session of 1891 was one of the most arduous which Canada has yet seen, and presented constant and ever-increasing difficulties to the Government, in consequence of the numerous administrative errors and offences which were disclosed in Committees of the House of Commons, the Conservative party presented an unbroken front throughout the session, and the affairs and legislation of the country proceeded without material interruption.

During the whole of his long life, Mr. Abbott has been a working man, with great facility for despatch of business and great success in its transaction. Though he has retired from the business of his profession, the confidence which is reposed in him by the public is manifested by the various positions of trust which he has occupied, some of which he relinquished on accepting the office of Prime Minister; others he continues to hold. As has already been stated, he is a Governor of the University of McGill, having passed through as a student in that University. He is the life President of the Fraser Institute, founded by his friend, the late Hugh Fraser, a merchant of Montreal, by whose will he was constituted life President, and it is mainly owing to his indefatigable labours, and largely to his contributions, that the Institute owes its present efficiency. He still retains the position of President of the Royal Victoria Hospital, and is President of the Citizens' Insurance Company, and a Director of the Bank of Montreal, and of the Standard Life Insurance Company. On his ac-