

Master became involved in a serious argument on the respective merits of free trade and protection. The argument became heated. Then Sam Jacobs expressed his views—and the atmosphere changed. He proclaimed his sympathies for free trade: "In fact," he added, "if it were not for my Hebrew persuasion I'd be prepared to go the whole hog here and now."

Shortly afterwards, Jacobs and McMaster were both elected to Parliament. In 1922 Mr. Jacobs was pointing to the fact that a large proportion of the immigrants entering Canada between 1911 and 1921 had not remained in the country. He asked:

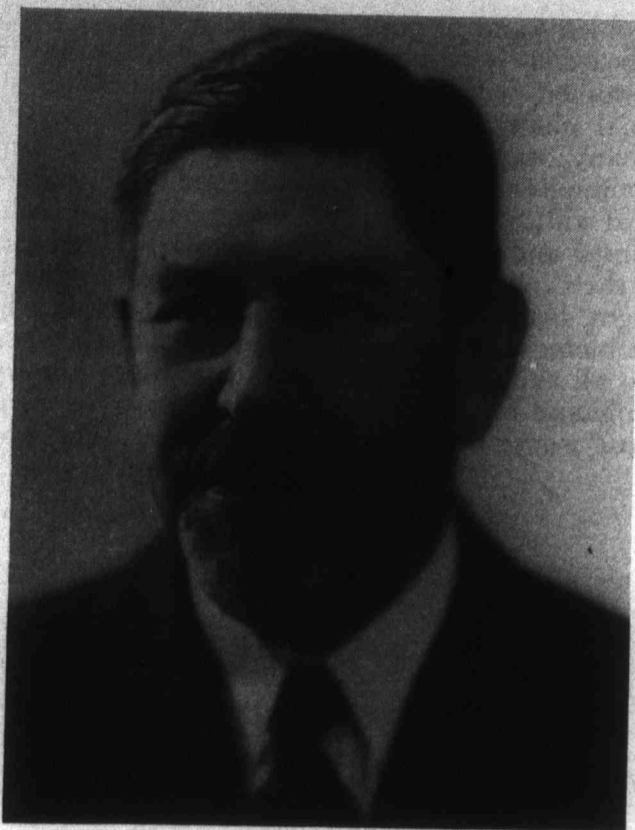
"What has become of the others . . . At present their disappearance is as mysterious as the disappearance of the ten tribes of the race to which I belong. We do not know what has become of them."

Mr. McMaster (Brome): "Does the hon. member belong to one of the lost tribes?"

Mr. Jacobs: "I feel sometimes when I am in the company of my good friend from Brome, that I am lost."

The writer recalls another of the many instances of his quick retorts. On arriving at his office one morning Mr. Jacobs was met by a new stenographer who asked for his name. "Who are you?" he inquired. "I'm the new girl," was her reply. "Well," he retorted, "I'm the old boy."

His rare sense of humour combined with a fine literary background lent charm to his public addresses and more particularly to his conversation. But his wit did not conceal a genuine ability and sound judgment. The House enjoyed his witticisms, his anecdotes and his apt quotations but it listened to him essentially because of the value of his contribution to the discussions in which he participated. He was for some years the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and, at the



*Notman, Montreal*

SAMUEL WILLIAM JACOBS, M.P.

time of his death, was Chairman of the Committee on Standing Orders. He was a lifelong Liberal but could never be accused of petty partisanship. He enjoyed the distinction on a number of occasions of recommending legislation which was adopted by a Conservative Government and was enacted by a Conservative Parliament. The number of his friends was legion and it included members of all parties, races and creeds.

Samuel William Jacobs was born in Lancaster, Ontario, in 1871. He graduated from the Faculty of Law of McGill University in 1893 and from Laval University in 1894, being called to

the Bar in the latter year. He attained prominence in the practice of both civil and criminal law and in his forty-four years at the Bar participated in many important cases. He enjoyed relating amusing incidents associated with a number of them. When, in 1913, Harry K. Thaw escaped from Mattawan Asylum and crossed the border into Canada, Mr. Jacobs was retained by the State of New York to act with its famous District Attorney, William Travers Jerome, to secure Thaw's return to the United States. The long drawn-out proceedings took place in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Jerome was impatient and annoyed by the necessity of spending weeks there: he slept little and whiled away his spare time as best he could, frequently playing cards. To his anger and amazement he was arrested one night for "gambling" on a railway train and was forthwith lodged in a cell in the Coaticook Jail. He called for Sam Jacobs who soon arrived and found the District Attorney in his cell angrily puffing away at a cigarette. Mr. Jacobs obtained an honourable acquittal for his new "client" in short order.

In more recent years Mr. Jacobs' time was not his own. Scores of persons filled his office

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 6 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 225)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES**  
**ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES**  
**CANADA**