

Colby, Charles Carroll, M.P., for Stanstead, Province of Quebec, was born at Derby, in the State of Vermont, on the 10th of December, 1827. His paternal ancestors removed from Chester, England, to Massachusetts in 1632. On the maternal side, he is a descendant of the Stoddards, one of the old and leading families of Connecticut. His father, the late Moses French Colby, M.A., M.D., received his scientific and medical education at Dartmouth, Yale and Harvard colleges, in the United States; removed to Stanstead with his family, in 1842, represented Stanstead in the Provincial Legislature at Quebec, at and prior to the outbreak of the rebellion of 1837, was surgeon of militia and volunteers during the rebellion, and died at Stanstead May 4th, 1863, aged sixty-seven years. He was an able, inquiring and forceful man, and was distinguished for his enterprise and public spirit as well as by his rare attainments, and success in the practice of medicine and surgery. The subject of this sketch graduated at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, in 1847, at the age of nineteen. He commenced the study of law in the office of the late H. Bailey Terrill, M.P.P., at Stanstead, prosecuted his study in the offices of A. & G. Robertson, at Montreal, and Hon. J. S. Sanborn, at Sherbrooke, and in 1855 entered upon the practice of law at Stanstead, which he continued with success until elected to the House of Commons in 1867. Mr. Colby has been a leading promoter of, and a liberal contributor to, all public enterprises in his neighbourhood. He is a trustee of Stanstead College, was a director of the Stanstead, Shefford, and Chambly Railway Company, the Waterloo and Magog Railway Company, and the Massowippi Valley Railway Company, during the construction of those railroads; is at present a director of the Cumberland Coal and Railway Company, the Magog Textile and Print Company, and of the International Railway Company, and is president of the International Railway Company of Maine, which latter are links in the projected Short Line from Montreal to the maritime ports, an enterprise which he has for many years actively promoted. Mr. Colby defeated the government candidate in 1867, and entered parliament as an independent Conservative. He was returned by acclamation in 1872, and again in 1874, and was elected by large majorities in 1878 and 1882. He has been a steady supporter of the Conservative government in its policy of progress, protection and development, and during the adminis-

tration of Mr. Mackenzie was in opposition. In parliament he has taken a leading part in the discussion of many important, economic and practical questions, but has rarely interested himself in the speculative and theoretical. As a parliamentary debater he is clear, fluent, logical and effective, and on notable occasions he has contributed to the information of the House. By close adherence to the subject matter in hand, and by his earnest and persuasive method of speech he always commands the attention and respect of his hearers. As early as the session of 1868, in his speech upon the hop duty, he declared his belief that a defensive policy against the high tariff of the neighbouring country was the true policy for Canada, and in 1879, when speaking upon the same subject, he urged the adoption of "a national policy based to some extent on the idea of reciprocity of tariffs." In 1870 and 1871 he urged similar views, and again in 1876, 1877 and 1878. His speech in the session of 1878 was circulated throughout every constituency in the Dominion as a campaign document, and had a powerful influence upon the result. In 1871 and 1872 he introduced bills for the repeal of the Insolvency Act, and carried them by votes in the House of Commons, against the government and leading members of the opposition. On the first occasion the bill was thrown out by the speaker, at the third reading, on a point of order, and on the latter it was rejected by the Senate. In 1879 he was chairman of the select committee on Bankruptcy and Insolvency, and in 1880 he introduced and carried through the bill which finally repealed the law. While the late Sir Francis Hincks was finance minister, Mr. Colby's speeches prevailed with him to withdraw the government proposition relating to export duties upon bark, and to greatly modify the features of his general banking bill relating to the capitalization of banks. His speeches upon insurance, the acquisition of the Hudson Bay company's territory and Rupert's Land, the annexation of British Columbia, and the Panama canal, were powerful, and effective. To him the country is largely indebted for the reduction of the petroleum duties and for the safe inspection of illuminating oil. In the session of 1885 his speeches upon the Scott act amendment, and upon the subsidy to the Short Line Railway from Montreal to the maritime ports very evidently effected the votes. Mr. Colby's record in parliament is that of a practical and clear-minded working and speaking member, and his uniform courtesy is appreciated by his political