

HON. WILLIAM PATERSON.

HONOURABLE William Paterson whose death occurred at Picton, Ontario on the 18th of March had a Parliamentary experience paralleled by but few public men in the history of the Dominion. For an unbroken interval of 42 years he was a member of the House of Commons; and for 15 years of that time, as Minister of Customs in the Laurier Administration, a member of the Canadian Cabinet.

Born at Hamilton, Ontario, on September 10th, 1839, Mr. Paterson was in his 75th year at the time of his death. Left penniless and an orphan at the age of ten, he revealed in youth a finer inheritance than that of wealth or position. Beginning as a clerk in a village store, he rose by industry and frugality to be a manufacturer of importance, and the head of one of the leading industrial establishments of Canada. His integrity and public spirit inspired the confidence which made him at an early age successively the Deputy Reeve and Mayor of Brantford, the city of his adoption, and, then, member for the County of Brant, with which County, save for the years 1896-1900 when he represented North Grey, he was identified during the whole of his public career.

Mr. Paterson entered Parliament in 1872, at which time he defeated Sir Francis Hincks, and was during the years of Liberal Opposition which followed the defeat of the Mackenzie Administration, an untiring advocate of the principles of Liberalism in the House of Commons and in the country. To his splendid oratorical gifts and forceful presentation of public issues, the Liberal party owed not a little of the success it achieved at the polls. This was particularly true of the campaign of 1896 when the Conservative party was defeated and the Liberals triumphantly returned.

As Minister of Customs, Mr. Paterson's well known integrity contributed to the confidence which the Laurier Administration so long enjoyed. He was a careful administrator and had an intimate knowledge of all that pertained to his own Department. In the preparation of the tariff of 1897 and its various revisions he had much to do. Believing more strongly than some of his colleagues

in the merits of a protective tariff, he was generally regarded as a link between the men of extreme views on trade matters. His last public service was that of assisting his colleague, Mr. Fielding, in the negotiation of the reciprocity agreement with the Taft administration prior to the elections of 1911.

It remains to be seen if History will not yet vindicate the wisdom of this important international transaction. Time appears to be fast justifying the judgment which underlay its terms. But of William Paterson it may be said that it was not so much by what he did as by what he was that he will be remembered. Kindly and unostentatious in disposition, democratic in sympathy, a lover of peace and concord, upright and unimpeachable in character, fearless and forceful in the advocacy of the principles in which he believed, his Liberalism, was an expression of the man himself. His name will require no defenders, and the country to which he gave the most of his life, will cherish and revere his memory.

NEW LIBERAL SENATE LEADER.

HON. HEWITT BOSTOCK, Senatorial representative for Kamloops, B.C., was unanimously chosen on March 18th by the Liberal members of the Senate to succeed the late Sir George Ross as Liberal Leader in the Upper House.

The selection of Senator Bostock, to fill this position of responsibility and honour is both popular and fitting. An able debater, a well informed student of all public questions, a clear thinker and a man of high ideals of public service, he is well equipped for the duties of able and successful leadership. He has the essential qualities of firmness, tact, honesty of purpose and breadth of vision.

Senator Bostock's public career both as a member of the House of Commons to which he was elected for Yale-Cariboo in 1896 and as a member of the Senate to which he was appointed in 1904 has been in keeping with the best traditions of Parliamentary service, and as the Leader of the Liberal party in the Senate he may be expected to maintain with advantage to the party and distinction to himself, the high and honourable position of his predecessors in this office.

TAXATION AND THE NAVY.

THE Liberal party in Canada has reason to thank Hon. Winston Churchill for making plain the motive of the policy of centralization which, under the guise of an "emergency contribution", Mr. Borden and his followers endeavoured to further in the Naval Aid Bill with its contribution of \$35,000,000 for the construction of three Dreadnoughts to constitute part of an Imperial squadron, and which Mr. Borden professes is still the policy of his party.

Speaking in the House of Commons on the British Naval Estimates on March 17th, Mr. Churchill made it plain that it is to relieve the British public of a part of its taxation by shifting the burden to Canada, rather than any special need for increased naval armaments, which lies at the root of this policy. Referring to Canada he said:

"If she were annexed to the United States of America she would no doubt contribute taxation to the up-keep of the United States navy. If she were independent she would no doubt have to make provision at least equal to that which is made by the most powerful of the South American States. Her destiny is in her own hands. I do not wonder that Canadians of every party feel that it is not in accordance with the dignity and status of the Dominion to depend entirely upon the exertions of British tax payers, many of whom are much less well off than the average Canadian."

Elsewhere he says:

"Should any further delay take place on the part of Canada the position in the Mediterranean will, as far as we now see, be maintained by the acceleration of only one ship. There are, however, prospects that the unfortunate deadlock which has arisen in Canada upon the Naval question will be relieved and that in one way or another, or by one party or the other, or best of all by the joint action of both parties, Canada will be able to take some share in her own Naval defence and in the defence of the Empire."

The Liberal party in Canada will have no quarrel with Mr. Churchill or Mr. Borden so long as there is no deception as to the purposes of taxation on naval equipment, and so long as the Canadian people who are to pay the taxes are given opportunity of saying whether, at this period in the development of British institutions, they prefer, as an exception in matters of Naval defence, taxation without representation, or the control of their own expenditures.