

in all the Province of Quebec, and for a short time here took editorial charge of "Le Defricheur." In the course of a year he retired from journalism and returned to the practice of law in Arthabaska. As our readers are all aware, the Province of Quebec is divided into judicial districts. Mr. Laurier at once took a leading position at the Bar, and showed himself to be as versatile in law as he afterwards showed in the political arena. He was equally at home before the jury or the Supreme Court, equally at home in criminal or commercial or corporation law; in that respect he seems to have been very much like Mr. D'Alton McCarthy of this Province, as the following cases will show: *Ivers v. Lemieux*, *Beaudette v. Mahoney*, *Crepeau v. Glover*, *Corporation de St. Christophe d'Arthabaska v. Esdras Beaudette*, *Regina v. Ling*, *Bothwell v. Corporation of West Wickham*, *Brown v. Perkins*, *Lavergne v. Lainesse*, *Carrier v. Cote*, *Moore v. Kean et al.*; these are all cases that were carried to the Supreme Court, and represent every branch of law. Mr. Laurier appears to have been very successful, and would, undoubtedly, have made a great reputation as a lawyer had he devoted himself exclusively to it. Mr. Laurier was very successful with juries; his tall, straight and noble bearing, with the pale face of the student, with a countenance mild, serious and rendered sympathetic by an air of melancholy, with a manner simple, sweet and self-commanding, he at once won the interest and sympathy of the jury before he uttered a single word; his mind is not involved his addresses were always clear, concise and to the point. At a glance he embraces

all sides of the question, seizes its leading principles and draws therefrom a series of reasoning which is connected together like the links of a chain. He impressed every jurymen that he firmly believed in the justice of his client's cause, and made it clear to them that he had a wrong that should be righted, and he seldom failed to make them see his way. Mr. Laurier enjoys the advantage of being a born orator; he has the further advantage of having cultivated his great natural gift and developed a love of truth and honesty of purpose, without which no man can be a great orator. Listen to him, and it is at once seen that his language is the echo of conviction and of a noble heart. And the impression which he creates upon his audience constitutes the best part of his force and his merit.

In 1871 he was nominated for the Local Legislature and was returned to represent the united counties of Drummond and Arthabaska, defeating by a majority of one thousand votes the Ministerial candidate, Mr. Hemming. Entering the House while such men as Cartier, Cauchon, Langevin, Holton, Fournier, Irvine, Joly, Lynch, Blanchet, Fortin, Robitaille, Cassidy and Bachande still figured on the provincial scene, the young member for Drummond and Arthabaska modestly took his seat on the rear Opposition benches, but his first parliamentary speech at once brought him into full prominence, and he was heralded throughout the Province as the rising hope of his party. A perusal of this speech will show that in regard to its breadth and scope it was more in keeping with the tone of the House of Commons, which the young member was destined to