

public last month, and this is what the Canadian Gazette of December 20 says of it:—

The tragic death of Sir John Thompson occurred on the day preceding that set apart for the opening of the newly-completed Ontario Section at the Imperial Institute, and thus what was intended to be a social festivity among Canadians in London was turned into an occasion of mourning. As soon as the death of the Canadian Prime Minister became known in London, Mr. Harrison Watson, the Canadian Curator at the Imperial Institute, consulted Sir Henry Tyler and Mr. John Paton, the Ontario Governors at South Kensington, as to the advisability of postponing the opening ceremony. That course was practically impossible at so short a notice, and so it was decided that the new section should be formally opened and the opportunity be taken to express the grief which all Canadians share. Everything in the nature of festivity was, of course, abandoned. There was no reception of guests, no congratulations on the opening of the new court—in fact, everyone felt that their chief object in meeting together was to express sorrow at the sudden death of Canada's First Minister.

About one hundred Canadians and friends of Canada accepted the invitation of the Ontario Governors, Sir Henry Tyler and Mr. John Paton, and many of them wore mourning out of respect for Sir John Thompson, who, it may be mentioned, had himself hoped to be present at the ceremony. Sir Charles Tupper also intended to address the gathering, but was detained at Windsor. Among the guests were Sir Saul Samuel, Agent-General for New South Wales; Sir Westby Percival, Agent-General for New Zealand; Sir Malcolm Fraser, Agent-General for West Australia; the Hon. Thomas Playford, Agent-General for South Australia, and representative of that Colony at the Ottawa Conference; Mr. Peter Byrne, Ontario's representative in England; Mr. Bickmore, Secretary to the Agent-General for British Columbia; Mr. Quinn and Mr. Flockton of the Grand Trunk Railway Company; Mr. Le Sage, Colonel Horsford, Mr. Percy Dodson, General Balfour, and others. A considerable number of ladies was also present.

At four o'clock Sir Henry Tyler took his stand by the solid-looking exhibit of Ontario marbles in the centre of the court, and at once spoke of the event uppermost in the minds of all. He said:—

We little thought, when we asked you to be present at the inauguration of the new Ontario section, that before the day appointed for the ceremony we should suffer from so great a blow as the death of Sir John Thompson. All friends of Canada must deeply regret the sad disaster. Sir John Thompson, as is very well known to you, had gone through a magnificent career in Canada. Succeeding Sir John Abbott as Premier, great hopes were entertained for his future; but, unfortunately, he has been cut off, and his family and all Canada—and, I may say, the whole British Empire—are left to mourn his loss. It is very characteristic of Sir John Thompson—and it is a touch of nature that goes to the hearts of all of us—that in his mortal illness he should think not of himself but only of the trouble and inconvenience he feared he was causing to those about him. In consequence of this blow that has fallen upon us, we thought it better to confine our operations to-day more especially to moving a resolution sincerely sympathising with the Canadian people in the loss they have sustained.

Sir Henry went on to point out the advantages of Ontario, and to speak of its abundant natural products which the Grand Trunk Railway distributed in every direction. He also referred to the sudden death of Lord Swansea, who was so much interested in mining in Sudbury and other parts of Canada, and after formally declaring the court open, moved the following resolution, to which a unanimous assent was given:—

That this meeting of Canadians and friends of Canada has heard with deep regret of the sudden death of the Rt. Hon. Sir John Thompson, K.C.M.G., the Premier of Canada, and begs to express its heartfelt sympathy with the Canadian Government and people at the irreparable loss which has thus been sustained by the British Empire as well as by the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. John Paton seconded the resolution, and announced that Sir Charles Tupper, who was to have spoken, had telegraphed from Windsor Castle stating that he had been detained there in connection with the sad death of the Premier. Mr. Paton added:—

The sudden calamity which has just befallen the Dominion of Canada and the whole Empire in the lamentable death of Sir John Thompson calls forth the heartfelt sympathy and profound sorrow of all. Summoned to the highest office in the Dominion at a time of exceptional difficulty, the late Prime Minister showed the highest statesmanship, and gained the respect and esteem of all creeds and classes of men. His invaluable services to Great Britain as a member of the Behring Sea Arbitration tribunal will perpetuate the memory of his great ability and judicial firmness.

The exhibits, which, as a result of the labors of Mr. Harrison Watson, the Canadian Curator, and Mr. Plumb, the Assistant Curator, were displayed to the best advantage in the new section, well repay careful examination. The new section is in the upper west central gallery of the Institute. At the turn in the flight of stairs which must be climbed to reach the court, there is set a bronze bust of Sir John Macdonald, by Mr. Bain Smith, which was presented to the Institute by the Imperial Federation League. The thought naturally uppermost in everyone's mind on passing that bust last Thursday was that within the short space of five years three Sir Johns, three Premiers of Canada, had passed away. At the top of the stairs is a small space reserved for British Columbia exhibits.

The first object to claim the notice of the visitor in the new Ontario section is the complete collection of cereals in bottles. These are well arranged on a conical platform some ten feet in height. No fewer than 500 varieties of wheat, oats, barley, peas, and other cereals have been brought together from all parts of Ontario, and four large views, taken at that most valuable institution, the Guelph Experimental Farm, are set in the midst of the cereals, and give a pleasing relief to row upon row of bottles.

Passing around the grain exhibit, we find two finished and highly-polished examples of Canadian canoes, made by Messrs. Strickland & Co., of Lakefield, Ontario. One of the canoes made by this firm was presented to the Duchess of York at her marriage, and such is the popularity of these Canadian canoes that seventy were placed on the Thames alone last season, and the Lakefield firm disposed altogether of 200 to English buyers. Messrs. Cording & Co., of Piccadilly, also exhibit two of the canoes