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HON. JOHN ROSE, M.P.

This gentleman, the subject of our portrait, was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in the year 1830, and is therefore now in his forty-third year, a comparatively early age for a man to attain the high political standing which he enjoys. He completed his studies at King's College, Aberdeen; and at an early age, in conjunction with his father and family, emigrated to Canada; but wealth and distinction are not attained in Canada without industry and assiduity and young Rose was not an exception to this rule; he labored manfully in those days, and being possessed of great energy, he surmounted the obstacles which impeded his path in a new country. It is said that in his younger days he performed the useful duties of a tutor, and we know that he was lately commissioner of public works; a circumstance sufficient to demonstrate his energy and abilities. He resided for a short time in the Eastern Townships and then went to Montreal to study law; he was called to the bar of Lower Canada, (Montreal district) in 1842, and possessing, as he does, excellent natural abilities, and being a good speaker and debater, with a good delivery and a commanding figure, he impresses upon his hearers the full importance of the subject which he discusses; that he soon succeeded in his profession, and eventually acquired the largest practice at the bar in the mercantile capital of Canada is an admitted fact. He became solicitor for the Hudson's Bay Company, and several other companies and institutions; he was made a Queen's counsel in 1847, and did a good deal of the government work in the courts. Always taking a part on the loyal side in public affairs.—Mr. Rose soon became a politician, and was often desired



HONORABLE JOHN ROSE, M. P. P.

to enter Parliament, but to such alluring affairs he long continued to turn a deaf ear, though assured of office in some of the governments of the day; but it was not till the general election of 1857 that he could be induced to run for any constituency; this was on his appointment to the solicitor-generalship in the Macdonald-Cartier administration. In conjunction with Messieurs Cartier, (the leader of the Lower Canada section of the government) and Starnes, a wealthy and influential citizen of Montreal, he contested the honor of representing that city against Messrs. Dorion, Holton and McGee, who ran on the opposition ticket.—

Of the ministerialists, Mr. Rose was the only successful candidate, the others were elected for other constituencies. Mr. Rose continued as solicitor-general east, passing through the nominal appointment of receiver-general on the 6th of August, until December, 1858, when on the resignation of M. Sicotte, he accepted the more responsible office of commissioner of public works; this position he held until the general election of 1861, when, 'for certain private reasons,' he tendered his resignation to the administration, and after being again returned for Montreal, left for a tour in Europe. During the time he held the commissionership of public

works he effected many improvements in that department; and it was very truly said that no one had ever performed the work of that arduous department with greater satisfaction, notwithstanding that more was done for Montreal and that vicinity than for any other place; nor did any chief commissioner ever act with more integrity and honor than he. The value of his services and the superiority of his character were more especially evident during the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. He took upon himself the main arrangements of the tour, and elicited the grateful commendations of the royal party, and the united praises of

to arrive with as much punctuality as if he had not travelled some 5,000 miles to keep his appointment.

'There was great shaking of hands as his Royal Highness, the Duke of Newcastle, and all the suite took a kind leave of Mr. Rose, whose arduous labors terminated with the last Canadian city. It was with a feeling of deep regret that the royal party bade adieu to one who had so ably and so successfully ministered to the comfort of their tour throughout.'

For much of the foregoing memoir we are indebted to Mr. Henry J. Morgan's work, 'Sketches of Celebrated Canadians,' a work that should be in the hands of every Canadian,

the British, American, and Canadian press.

The following appeared in the Times, which we think right to reproduce:—

'To the Honorable John Rose, the chief Commissioner of Public Works in Canada, was intrusted the task of organizing, arranging and perfecting every detail connected with the royal progress. This scarcely sounds very much, but when the reader recollects that the royal party, with their suite and attendants, with guards of honor, police and couriers, averaged from 250 to 300 persons, that either by rail, by horses, steamers, carriages, or canoes, they travelled on the average more than 100 miles through new and often a wild country; that every single stage was kept to the very hour, and that even the most trifling 'contre-temps' did not occur on the whole route; this result, considering that all the 'materiel' for the royal guest and household, such as plate, linen and glass, had to be forwarded always in advance from day to day that it was always ready, even at the most remote points, and that throughout not one single article was lost or misplaced—speaks well for Mr. Rose's arrangements.

'With the untiring exertions of his staff, every member of which Mr. Rose superintended and looked after himself each morning and each night, and aided by the kindness and ready help of General Bruce, the whole tour through Canada had been made. Where has there ever been one more enthusiastic, even more triumphant, or better organized in all its branches from stationing carriages in back woods to relays of canoes up rapids, from relays of horses to the banks of lakes to railways, and so on to towns? At every single town, village or shanty-station, his Royal Highness had been enabled