

Obituary

The late Henri Guillaume LaMothe, who died after a short illness on Thursday, April 9th, was born at Florence, Italy, on the 17th June, 1850. His parental forbears to the third remove were men of distinction in the country. His father is a prominent citizen of Montreal, at one time postmaster of the city. His grandfather led the Indians at the battle of Chateaguay on that memorable 13th October, 1813, which saved Lower Canada from the American invaders. His gallantry on that occasion deserved and won the praise of his commander. His great-grandfather, in the winter of 1875-6, performed the heroic exploit of carrying despatches from loyal persons of authority in Montreal to Sir Guy Carleton, who was beleagured in Quebec by the Americans. Accompanied by Joseph Papineau, the father of the more celebrated Louis Joseph, in the depth of Winter, he walked from Montreal to Quebec with the important despatches concealed in a hollow cane. The Americans had control of the country, many of the peasantry were not averse to the presence of the invaders; the journey was fraught with many dangers, but it was accomplished safely. A brother of this LaMothe was connected with the militia at Detroit and afterwards with the Indian Department. On many occasions during the revolutionary war, notably on Hamilton's expedition in 1779, he did valiant deeds for the British cause.

The subject of this short sketch was educated at the Jesuit College in Montreal, and, after a brief sojourn in the United States, entered the public service in Canada as private secretary of the Minister of Inland Revenue on 1st February, 1878. Owing to ill-health he was compelled to retire from active official duty, and spent a few years in a congenial climate until his health was restored. He re-entered the service in the De-

partment of the Secretary of State in 1891, and was connected with that department until 1st July, 1895, when he was again placed on the retired list. He was recalled to the service and became assistant clerk of the Privy Council on 26th April, 1897, a position which he filled until he was transferred to be clerk of the Crown in Chancery.

The late Mr. LaMothe was not fond of publicity; his manner was unassuming, even shy, and there was never any desire on his part to display his ability or magnify his office. It was only when one came into contact with him in business that his grasp on the detail of his office became evident. He was scrupulous and diligent in the discharge of those duties and he showed constant courage in upholding the law for the conduct of elections with which the clerk of the Crown in Chancery is so largely concerned. In private life his qualities of reticence and unobtrusiveness were also marked. He was an ardent philatelist, but sought no prominence in this pursuit, although his collection was well known. He was fond of music and might have cultivated his genuine talent to some purpose. His personal friends will always cherish the memory of a unique personality and the public will not soon forget an officer of such ability and rectitude.

Personals

R. W. Breadner, inspector and Dominion appraiser of the Customs Department, has, we understand, accepted a lucrative position in the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. The service loses a capable and energetic officer and the Manufacturers' Association secures the services of a man whose 24 years in the customs particularly qualifies him for the work of chief of its Tariff Department.