

the crofter colonization scheme. He thought the trip would be beneficial, but it proved otherwise. He was taken ill in London a couple of days before he died, and his weakness, aggravated by a slight accident to a finger, hastened dissolution. General regret was felt all over the Dominion at Mr. Robson's untimely death. The body was brought to Victoria for interment.]

#### LOUIS G. DE BERTRAM,

*New York City.*

THE subject of this biographical notice, a gentleman who is well known in connection with railway enterprises in Canada, is descended from an old and distinguished French family, originally from Alsace, and was born in Paris a short time prior to the Revolution of 1830. Dr. de Bertram inherits a title from both the paternal and maternal side, but he has hitherto preferred to be known in the plain way than by the title which is unquestionably his. Concerning his early life, little may be said further than that he received an excellent education at the leading scholastic institutions in his native country, finally graduating with high honours both in law and medicine. Subsequently he practised the latter profession for a short period in Paris, afterwards distinguishing himself in connection with an important mission, for which he was selected by the French Government. He came to America about twenty years ago and settled in New York, where, for a time, he practised medicine, but this he abandoned to embark in railway and mining speculation, in which he was successful. Some five years since, after having formed a syndicate of leading capitalists in New York and Philadelphia, he came to Canada and engaged in railway enterprise in the Maritime Province. Since that time he has constructed a considerable mileage under contract, besides acquiring two independent roads, of which he is President. In addition to these, he is the owner of valuable interests in railways in the States, and he purposes largely increasing his mileage connection in this country. Personally, Mr. de Bertram is a gentleman of most courteous and affable manner and genial disposition, and these qualities, combined with the highest sense of honour and integrity of character, command for him the admiration and esteem of all those with whom he comes in contact. Madame de Bertram, to whom he was united in marriage some thirty years ago, is a highly connected French lady, and is a charming figure in the social circle in which she moves. The family residence is in New York.

#### HON. JAMES DAVIES LEWIN,

*St. John, N.B.*

HON. JAMES DAVIES LEWIN, Senator, President of the Bank of New Brunswick, St. John, N.B., was born at Womaston, Radnorshire, Wales. The Lewins were country gentlemen who had held the property, where our present subject was born, for generations. See Sir B. Burke's "Colonial Gentry." They were a Whig family, and the elder Lewin, in early life, was an enthusiastic politician, and a strong supporter of Charles James Fox, the greatest of the Whigs; but with advancing years he retired to his estates, and to the private life of a country gentleman. The mother of our subject was of Huguenot family, her people having fled from France during the persecutions of their time. James Davies Lewin was born on the 1st of April, 1812. He was educated at the grammar school at Kingston, Herefordshire, where he spent ten years. On leaving school at the age of eighteen, in 1830, he received an appointment in the Imperial Civil Service. His engagement was with the old customs department, which is now no longer in existence, having been swept away as a result of the great political change which made England a free trade country. It will be remembered that in the days when "Protection to British Interests" was sought through methods of restriction, a part of the policy was to give British producers an advantage in the colonies over the products of other countries. It was the business of the officers of the customs department to see that the discriminating duties upon foreign products were collected. They were expected to see to it also that the British navigation laws, which also possessed features in favour of the interests of the ship-owners of the mother country, were duly observed. Mr. Lewin first held a subordinate position in the customs office at Miramichi, N.B. In the discharge of his duties he was faithful, painstaking, accurate, and in every way business-like. Subsequently he was rewarded by promotion to the office of surveyor at the more important port of St. John. He remained in St. John for eight years; at the end of the time named he was promoted to the surveyorship at St. Andrews, which, by reason of its nearness to the border, was a very important place from a customs point of view. The free trade principle had triumphed in England by this time, but the navigation laws still applied to the colonies, and still had to be enforced. While Mr. Lewin was at St. Andrews the navigation laws were done away with, so far as New Brunswick was concerned, but they were still in force in Newfoundland, and to that colony Mr. Lewin was transferred, being appointed surveyor at St. Johns. In 1850, the