

MEN OF TO-DAY

Leader of the Ontario Liberals.

ONTARIO'S political decks are being cleared for action. Every man to his post. To the leadership of Ontario Liberalism steps Mr. Newton Wesley Rowell; in the stead of Mr. A. G. MacKay.

The Province of Ontario has not had enough electioneering this fall. Shortly returning officers will be back at their jobs again. On December 11th, country voters will be slipping merrily behind sleighbells to the polls. That night, in Toronto, Hamilton, London, Kingston and Brockville, little knots of people will shiver about the newspaper offices watching the screen tell the verdict of the great Province of Ontario upon the administration of Sir James Whitney.

The Ontario elections promise to be more interesting than was at first anticipated, when Sir James Whitney announced a few weeks ago, the intention of his government to appeal to the country. This is largely because of the sudden revivification of the Liberal Opposition.

During the past month they appear to have awakened. Probably the recent reciprocity landslide, which smashed the party in the Federal arena, made the Ontario section realize that they were somewhat "on their uppers." At any rate, the other day at the convention of the Ontario Liberals in Toronto, important changes were made in the organization of the Liberal fighting machine for the coming fight. Hon. Mr. MacKay resigned the leadership of the Opposition. Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., a prominent Toronto lawyer, was introduced to the convention as his successor amid scenes of great enthusiasm.

Mr. Rowell represents young and new blood in the Ontario Liberal party. He is a young man; forty-four on almost the very day he was tendered the leadership. Not many men receive a birthday gift of such weight as he did at his age. Numbers of the delegates, who made the presentation to Mr. Rowell, were young men from the debating clubs in the towns and cities of Ontario. Besides choosing a young man as their champion, they elected ex-Boy Minister W. L. M. King as President of the Ontario Liberal Association.

Mr. Rowell was favoured by the Convention because it thought that he possesses the training and aptitude to line up the rising generation of Liberals, the hope of the party. There has been nothing spectacular or abnormal about his career. Mr. Rowell is just a young man among young men—among the first, incidentally, it is true—but a typical example of what an ordinary, ambitious youth born on the farm, without the assets of family influence or money, may do in getting to the top.

Thirty years ago, in London Township, Middlesex County, a rather stringy youth walked to a cross-roads school in the morning. Sometime after four in the afternoon, he came home, helped his father with the farm chores, ate a tremendous supper, studied a while, took off his heavy shoes and, leaving them in the kitchen, crept noiselessly upstairs in the dark to bed. What he dreamed there is uncertain.

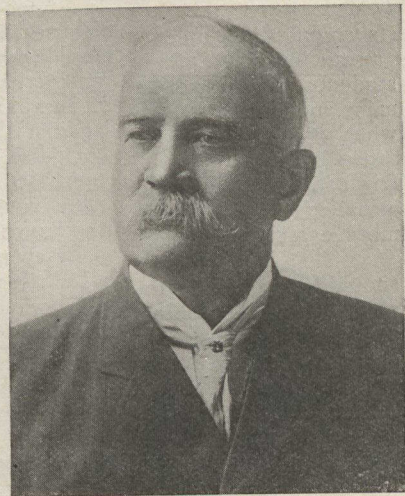
A year later, a sunburned young chap of about fifteen answered to the name of Rowell in London Collegiate Institute. He was from the country and slightly timid at first. However, he got over traces of gawky self-consciousness. The city boys of London took to him. He was an alert, but quiet, studious chap. In time he passed out of the Collegiate with standing.

What was he to do now? Back to the farm? Rowell decided that point by getting a job in the drygoods warehouse of John Green, London. He knew practically what kinds of calico and prints were in vogue among farmers' wives and what blue jeans hired men preferred. He got along. But he did not care much for clerking. One day he asked Mr. D. Fraser, of Fraser and Moore, barristers, for a desk in his office. He became articled to Mr. Fraser. As a law student, Rowell began to feel himself in his proper element. He developed the

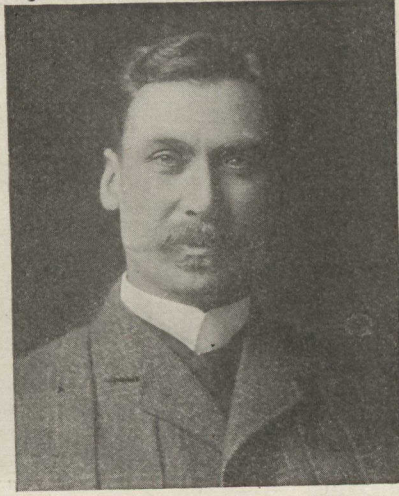
notion that he would like some day to electrify audiences, a common idea of budding lawyers. He joined a London debating organization, the Baconian Club, and began to exercise his vocal powers. Politics he talked with vigour. At election time, he stumped through the Middlesexes. And in the home of the Blakes and the Ross's he steeped himself in Liberalism.

By 1891, when Rowell received his law degree from Osgoode Hall, he had a sound legal grounding and good oratorical ability. With these assets he started out to conquer the big world of Toronto. By his application, inspiring manner, and genius for making friends in a quiet way, N. W. Rowell, K.C., is one of the leading barristers in Ontario's Capital, and head of a numerous firm. Also Mr. Rowell is one of the chief laymen in the Methodist Church, and a leader in the Laymen's Missionary Movement. Besides these activities, he is somewhat of a sport—a golfer and curler; a clubman, and a member of the University of Toronto Senate.

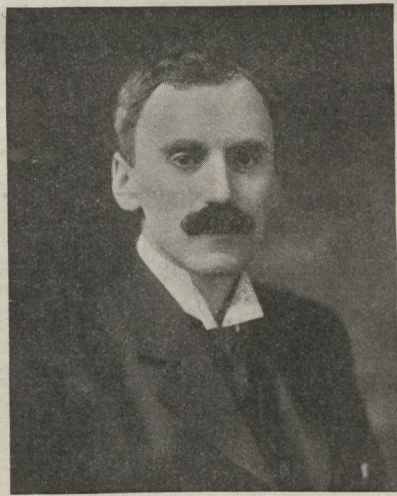
Mr. Rowell has never sat in parliament. In 1900,



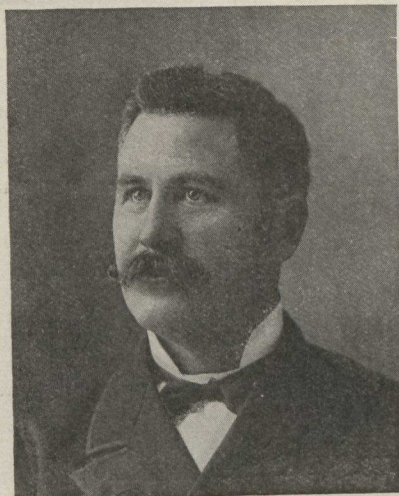
MR. NATHANIEL CURRY
Elected President, Canadian Manufacturers' Association.



MR. R. W. LEONARD, St. Catharines
Appointed Chairman, Transcontinental Railway Commission.



MR. NEWTON WESLEY ROWELL
New Leader of Ontario Liberal Party.



HON. J. K. FLEMMING
Who succeeds Hon. Mr. Hazen as Premier of New Brunswick.

he tried for the Dominion House, but Mr. W. F. McLean, M.P., tribune of public ownership, worsted him. Yet he has been so long associated with politicians and politics that both Conservative and Liberal press agree that he will make things interesting at Queen's Park. That is what the Liberals are putting him there for. When tall, slight, Newton Wesley Rowell turns the battery of his calm, incisive eloquence upon Sir James Whitney, the press gallery will watch the battle of the rapier and the broadsword.

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Premier of New Brunswick.

NEW BRUNSWICK has a brand new premier because of the migration from the Provincial Cabinet of Hon. J. D. Hazen, now Minister of Marine and Fisheries on Parliament Hill. He is Hon. J. K. Flemming, who acted as Provincial Secretary when Mr. Hazen was presiding over New Brunswick. Mr. Flemming is a youthful premier—only 43. He has been ten years in the Legislature. In March, 1908, the Hazen Government ascending

to power, Mr. Flemming entered the Cabinet. All along, next to the Premier, he was looked upon as the ablest man on the government side. It was his slashing attacks on the finance administration that largely contributed to the victory of his side. His power in debate is, perhaps, Mr. Flemming's chief characteristic. He is also in frequent demand as a speaker outside of parliament. Only the other day he was invited by the Canadian Club of Boston to deliver an address in that city.

One of the first projects the new Premier will try to push to a conclusion is the St. John Valley Railroad, which, for some time, has been the football of politics. He will confer immediately with Mr. Borden about it.

The last general election in New Brunswick was held in 1908, and resulted in the election of 31 Conservatives, 10 Liberals, and 5 Independents.

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A Millionaire Chairman.

HARDLY had Mr. Borden got out his Cabinet slate, than the despatch flashed from Ottawa that Mr. R. W. Leonard, of St. Catharines, Ontario, had been appointed Chairman of the Transcontinental Railway Commission. This position is one of the big party jobs outside of the portfolios.

The salary is \$10,000 a year. As Mr. Leonard's annual income is reputed to be many times that figure the surprise was decided. Wonder at the appointment by sections of the public deepened when it was told that Mr. Leonard had never been anything very strenuous in the way of a politician. The mystery somewhat cleared after it became known that Hon. Frank Cochrane, the eagle-eyed appraiser of big calibre men, had recommended the St. Catharines millionaire for the railroad job.

For some years Mr. Leonard has been plotting and carrying through large mining schemes and railroad contracts. He has said very little about it, preferring to pile up a fortune and enjoy it unostentatiously. He did a lot of the work on the short C. P. R. line between Montreal and Ottawa, and the Adirondacks Railway. New York railroad magnates engaged him for construction on the New York Central. When the Cobalt boom began, he invested heavily in properties, and now owns large interests in mines like the Coniagas. It was in the north country that Hon. Frank Cochrane sized him up.

In St. Catharines Mr. Leonard is a social favourite. He is hugely interested in military matters and holds the rank of major. Recently he invented an infantry gig scheme which caught on both at Ottawa and the War office. Though long ago a millionaire, he still fraternizes with the boys from the engineering schools who follow the survey chain for a hundred a month. Last year the Civil Engineers Society made the genial St. Catharines' major vice-president.

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A Self-Built Man.

ONE of the most important bodies in Canada is the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. Every manufacturer of any size in the Dominion is a member. Permanent offices are maintained in Toronto with university-trained economists in command. Annually, a convention is held, and a president and executive elected. This year the meeting was at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto. And at that meeting, by acclamation, Mr. Nathaniel Curry, head of the Canadian Car and Foundry Company, was made president. This is one more incident in the business career of a man who only had his sheer native ability and dextrous hands to help him.

Mr. Curry was born a farmer's son down in King's County, Nova Scotia, sixty years ago. He was turned out to work at tender fifteen, and started to learn wood-working. By 1877 he had started Rhodes, Curry and Company, wood-working manufacturers in Amherst, N.S. In 1893 he took in the car-building business of J. Harris & Co. In 1909, Mr. Curry's firm merged with the Dominion Car and Foundry Company and the Canada Car Company into the Canadian Car and Foundry Company. Though this company lies nearest his heart, Mr. Curry could not name on the fingers of both hands all the large corporations in which he has some say.