

which Upper and Lower Canada entered confederation. This was a task of no small difficulty. Hon. Mr. Macpherson represented Ontario in this matter, and the manner in which he discharged his duties was satisfactory to the Government and the people of the Province. Hon. Mr. Macpherson was a staunch supporter of the Conservative policy, and during the régime of the Mackenzie administration he did much, both in Parliament and outside, to weaken their hold upon public confidence, and bring about the defeat they suffered in September, 1878. Not only did he, by public enquiry through the Senate, expose the nature of the policy they were pursuing, but he prepared a pamphlet criticising that policy in its different phases, and exposing its weakness, especially from the financial and fiscal points of view. This pamphlet was one of the leading documents circulated by the Conservatives during the campaign, and the many efforts made by Liberal writers and speakers to answer the arguments set forth in it, were sufficient proof of the part it played in the election. This was in some respects the most notable of a series of works by the same author, dealing with financial, fiscal, and banking questions. In 1880, Hon. Mr. Macpherson was appointed Speaker of the Senate. This is a position which, by tradition, calls for not only political but social gifts of a high order, for Mr. Speaker's chambers are a centre of Society during the session of Parliament. It is safe to say that never has there been an occupant of the chair who more ably discharged his duties in presiding over the deliberations of the Senate, and never has there been a more hospitable or more courtly performance of the social duties of the position. On the 17th October, 1883, Hon. Mr. Macpherson resigned the Speakership, and was appointed Minister of the Interior. A year later he received the crowning honour of his life, that of knighthood, being created a Knight of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. The duties of public life, however, were too great for Sir David to bear for long. He was compelled, by ill-health, to resign his position as member of the Cabinet, which he did in 1885. Sir David Macpherson has not confined his attention to politics alone, but has given much assistance to public bodies of various kinds. He was for a time president of the Toronto St. Andrew's Society, an organization which includes in its membership some of the ablest and best-known men in Canada. He has also been identified with some of the most prominent business corporations in the Dominion, having been a director of Molsons Bank, the Western Canada Permanent Loan and Savings Company, and the Guarantee Company of North America. Sir David Macpherson has a fine residence in Toronto, known as Chestnut Park, where, when at

home, he dispenses a kindly, generous hospitality. He is compelled, however, by the state of his health to be much abroad. In his family relations, Mr. Macpherson has been particularly happy. In 1844 he was married to Miss Elizabeth Sarah, eldest daughter of William Molson, the well-known financier of Montreal, and granddaughter of Hon. John Molson, president of the Bank of Montreal, and for many years member of the Executive Council of Lower Canada. One of the daughters of this union is the wife of Hon. George A. Kirkpatrick, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.

HON. GEORGE W. ROSS, LL.D., M.P.P.,

Toronto, Ont.

HONOURABLE GEORGE WILLIAM ROSS, LL.D., M.P.P., and Minister of Education for Ontario, was born near Nairn, township of William, county of Middlesex, Ont., September 18th, 1841. His parents, James and Ellen (McKinnon) Ross, were both natives of Ross-shire, Scotland, and of Celtic origin. The subject of this sketch began his distinguished career as an educationist in 1857, and continued actively engaged in the teaching profession until 1867. In 1869 he attended the Normal School, Toronto, under Dr. J. H. Sangster, Principal, and Dr. H. W. Davies, first assistant. In 1871 he was appointed Inspector of Public Schools for the county of Lambton, and subsequently acted in a similar capacity for the towns of Petrolia and Strathroy. When the establishment of additional Normal Schools was agitated in Ontario, Mr. Ross took a leading part in the creation of the county model school system. After their establishment he prepared a syllabus of lectures for their direction, and for a time filled the position of Inspector. The excellent results are a demonstration of the wisdom of his counsels. From 1876 to 1880 he was a member of the central committee of examiners. He steadily contended for the uniformity of text books, and favoured the limiting of Normal Schools to professional work. Mr. Ross matriculated in law at Albert University in 1879, and graduated LL.B. in 1883. He also received the degree of LL.D., in 1886, from St. Andrew's University, Scotland, a compliment to the high position he has attained as an educator and as demonstrator of the school system of the province. Positions of public trust and responsibility always demand men of good character and superior ability; hence it is not surprising that Mr. Ross was elected, in 1872, representative of West Middlesex, in the House of Commons. So thoroughly satisfied were his constituents that he was re-elected by acclamation in