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IN THE PUBLIC VIEW



Mr. G. A. Reid,
President Royal Canadian Academy of Arts.

THE greatest honour which can come to a Canadian artist is to be made president of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, which bears the same relation to art as the Royal Society of Canada bears to literature and scholarship. The R. C. A. was founded in 1880 by the Marquis of Lorne, and Mr. G. A. Reid is its fourth president. He has just been re-elected for a second term.

George Agnew Reid was born at Wingham in 1860, and has devoted his life to the study of art—at Philadelphia, in France, Spain and Italy. He is best known to the public by his two ambitious canvases, "Mortgaging the Homestead" in the National Gallery at Ottawa, and "Foreclosing the Mortgage," which is now in the United States. His landscapes and figure pictures are less popular but more important from the artist point of view. His decorations for the Toronto City Hall, donated in a spirit of civic patriotism, have never been appreciated as they deserve.

Personally Mr. Reid is the most gentle and unselfish of men, always foremost in movements looking to an increase of public interest in art matters. His work in connection with the School of Art in Toronto, the Ontario Society of Artists, the Toronto Civic Guild, the Society of Applied Arts and other organisations has been of the greatest possible value.

IN many parts of Alberta, whether in the foothills, the edge mountains, or the long, level plains, the traveller may see the telephone lines built since the present Government came into power. To the wayfarer in the absorbing foothills west of Calgary it is a touch of extreme civilisation to see the line of new poles skirting the base of the hills along the Bow; the line from Calgary to Banff. Northward last summer and east of the railway went the gangs of the Minister of Public Works, camping on the trails and stringing bluffs to coulees with copper wires; great, green reaches near the Battle River that had never seen a wire. To this ramification of copper lines on the prairie and the hills the Department of Public Works in Alberta has recently added the existing Bell system, purchased at a cost of nearly three-quarters of a million dollars. To one man chiefly the credit is due—Hon. Mr. Cushing, of Calgary, who is one of the most constructive men in the Alberta Government.



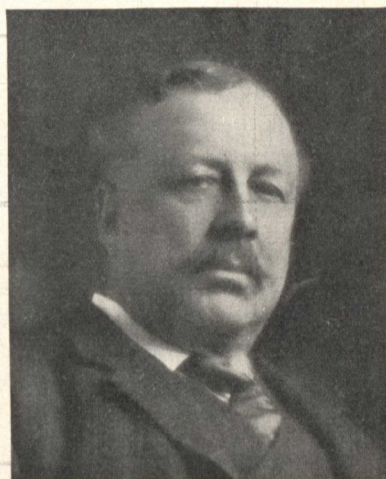
Hon. W. H. Cushing,
Minister of Public Works, Alberta.

THE death of Sir Adolphe Caron, ex-Minister of Militia, and the anniversary of the battle of Fish Creek came oddly within two days of coinciding. Sir Adolphe died on the twenty-first of April; Fish Creek was fought on the twenty-third. It was the Rebellion of which Fish Creek was one of the notable engagements that brought Sir Adolphe sharply into the public view. Riel's execution was unpopular with a large number of Liberals. Sir Adolphe more than any other statesman outside the Minister of Justice was concerned in the execution of the rebel leader

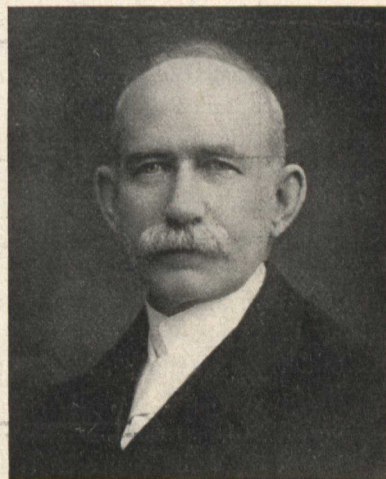
at the Mounted Police barracks at Regina. Sir Adolphe was a peculiar and striking figure in Canadian national life. He had about him much of the French chevalier; a man upon whom the cares of office seemed to sit lightly; a statesman of remarkable courage and self-control as was evidenced by his conduct in the great Conservative "bolt" of 1896, when he remained in the Cabinet as Conservative leader of the House against a clamorous opposition. Sir Adolphe was born in Quebec in 1843, son of the Hon. R. E. Caron, Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec. He entered the House of Commons at the age of thirty as member from Quebec County, and from that time till 1900 he never left the House; he was Minister of Militia from 1880 till 1892; from that till 1896 Postmaster-General; he was knighted for his services in connection with the Riel Rebellion.

An episode about Fish Creek: Some time before the Rebellion a troop of rough rider-men—both halfbreeds and whites—had been drafted under a Colonel Hughes; men of the plains who knew the way of a gun and a horse but were not much on precise discipline; and for some reason or other known only to the military authorities the company was gazetted out—just a little while before the fight at Duck Lake. Colonel Hughes was much exercised over the thing but said little until the battle of Fish Creek when the halfbreed sharpshooters and rough riders of Gabriel Dumont were picking off Middleton's men with painful regularity. Colonel Hughes was in camp in the General's staff. Turning to Middleton he said rather sarcastically: "Well, General, what do you think of my raw rough riders now?" "I don't understand you, Colonel," said the G. O. C.; "to what men do you refer?" Hughes pointed across the creek as a bullet came zipping in. "My dear General, they're shooting our men. Dumont has them!"

A TRIBUTE to the Fourth Estate is the appointment of Mr. William Mackenzie at Ottawa to the newly created position of Canadian Secretary of Imperial and Foreign Correspondence. The name "Mackenzie" seems to be rather fateful. Mr. Mackenzie King came into prominence through the creation of the Deputy Ministership of Labour. Mr. Mackenzie's position is not less important and will have perhaps a wider significance. Diplomatic correspondence from foreign lands direct to the Canadian capital is a fresh proof that Canada has become more than a mere colony. To handle letters of this character requires a wide and ripe knowledge of the affairs of state. Mr. Mackenzie has had a quarter of a century's experience in handling correspondence out of Ottawa; it is only natural that now he should fall into the task of handling correspondence into Ottawa. For twenty-five years he has been sending to various centres in Canada and to England, faithful accounts of the doings of the Canadian Parliament. He will now be the medium between the Government and the governments abroad who desire to know what Canada is doing. In a sense Mr. Mackenzie will occupy the same relative position towards the Canadian Government that the late De Blowitz, the famous war correspondent, bore to the governments of Europe and the London "Times."



The late Charles Drinkwater,
Legislative Representative of the C. P. R.



Mr. William Mackenzie,
Canadian Sec. of Imperial and Foreign Correspondence.