

in the great Canadian Pacific Railway enterprise, it was never imputed to Mr. Abbott, in the warmest political controversy, that he used his political influence in any way to further the undertaking.

The success of this magnificent Canadian highroad to the Pacific was in no small degree furthered by the work of Mr. Abbott in the departments of its organization in which he laboured, and his name is always associated with the promoters of this great national enterprise.

Upon the completion of the railway across the continent, the disqualification caused by the holding of stock in the Company was repealed, and Mr. Abbott then acquired stock in it, and was elected one of its directors, and retained this position until he resigned upon accepting the appointment of Prime Minister of Canada.

In 1887, Mr. Abbott was elected Mayor of Montreal by a majority of about 2,000 votes over his opponent, Mr. Rainville. In 1888, he was re-elected by acclamation, and, the same year, was appointed President of the Corporation of the Royal Victoria Hospital, an institution which had recently been founded and endowed with about \$1,100,000 by the munificence of two citizens of Montreal, Lord Mount-Stephen and Sir Donald A. Smith, in commemoration of Her Majesty's Jubilee. The construction of the stately Hospital buildings, costing above \$500,000, has been proceeded with under Mr. Abbott's supervision as president, and they now form one of the most striking architectural ornaments of a city already rich in imposing edifices, both public and private. The buildings were designed by Saxon Snell, Esq., of London, who has a continental reputation for the designing of hospital buildings.

In 1888, Mr. Abbott was appointed a commissioner to negotiate with Australia for closer trade relations and electric communication, for which position his knowledge of commercial, legal, and diplomatic subjects eminently fitted him. He made his preparations for his Australian mission; but the movement for Confederation began and seemed likely to be successful, and it was thought best to delay his departure till power in such matters should be concentrated by the union of the Australasian provinces.

After Mr. Abbott's retirement from the House of Commons, he was offered by Sir John Macdonald a seat in the Senate, with the leadership of that body and a membership of the Privy Council.