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## LORD STRATHCONA AND MOUNT ROYAL

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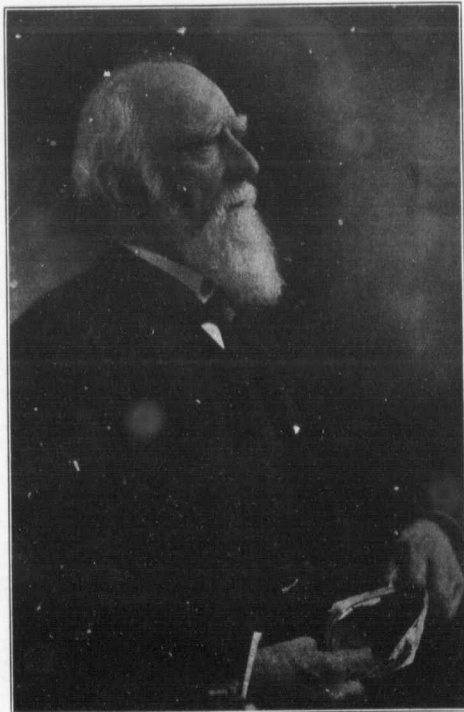
THE wonderful career of Lord Strathcona has ended, a career marked by such tremendous achievements that to tell of the multiple affairs that engaged his attention would be the task of an historian.

We can consider only the outstanding features of his life, those that are interesting to every true Canadian, and which help to explain the wondrous new Canada which has come out of something like chaos almost within our own time.

In 1838, when a lad eighteen years of age, Donald Smith left his home in Scotland to hew, almost in a literal sense, his way to fortune on the inhospitable Labrador coast. An incident at this time shows his unflinching perseverance. Once, when a clerk at Fort Chimo, his eyes had troubled him, and, with his factor's permission, he had trudged on snow shoes all the way to Montreal to have them properly treated. There he met the chief factor, Sir George Simpson, on the street, and, being questioned, explained the purpose for which he had come so far. He was told: "Go back to your post, young man. You were told to go there and to stay there. If you value your eyes more than your service to the Company you had better abandon the one you value least."

The faithful clerk obediently went back to his post with-

out any prescription for his eyes. This sort of treatment brought out all the steel in the youth's make-up. It developed him into a Hercules.



THE LATE LORD STRATHCONA

With this spirit of unserving determination he labored in that lonely land for thirteen long years, and was then transferred to a larger field. In 1851 the promotion was made, and he was sent to the great Northwest—at this time a land peopled by only a few settlers and marked by scattered trading posts. His sterling qualities soon won for him distinction, and before long he emerged from a subordinate position in the fur trade to the highest office at the top. At the age of forty-eight he was appointed Resident Governor of the Company in Canada, which at that time comprised what is now Ontario and Quebec.

Those were troublesome days in the Northwest. The sale of this territory by the Hudson's Bay Company to the Dominion led to certain measures of government which displaced the Indians and half-breed settlers; so in 1869 they broke out into open rebellion. Donald Smith was appointed to look into the cause of the insurrection. By argument and persuasion he weakened the followers of the

rebel and then, laid down his message to Riel himself: "Canada is prepared to respect the people of this country and grant them everything that is just. You must believe