

Mr. McDonald was elected to take his father's old seat in the Nova Scotia Legislature in 1878, and, consequently, is serving his first term in such a body. He is a man of good business capacities and solid common sense, and these are good qualities in a legislator. He is on the crown lands and temperance committees. His politics are Liberal Conservative.

Mr. McDonald is an elder in the Sherbrooke Presbyterian church; has repeatedly been a delegate to the Synod, and is a prominent layman in the county of Guysborough.

He first married, in November, 1845, at Truro, Rebecca Archibald, third daughter of Samuel Archibald, Esq., and sister of the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, she dying in September, 1870, leaving four children, one son having preceded her to the spirit-world; and the second time, in October, 1873, in Truro, to Sarah Blanchard, sister of Judge Blanchard, of Kentville, and the late Sheriff Blanchard, of Truro, both of whom have sketches in this volume. James McDonald, the only son by the first wife, is living at Stillwater, N.S.; Elizabeth is the wife of Stephen T. Hall, station agent at Strait of Canso; and the other three daughters, Emma, Margaret and Grace, are at home. There is no issue from the second marriage.

ALEXANDER ROBB,

AMHERST, N.S.

ONE of the oldest and most prominent manufacturers in Amherst, is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He came here when a child, received a moderate school drill, and with no capital except a sound constitution, correct habits, and "a mind to work," through untiring industry and a prudent and economical method of doing business, placed himself in comfortable circumstances years ago.

Mr. Robb was born at Leicester, Cumberland county, N.S., March 4th, 1827, and has always remained a resident of the county; his father, Alexander Robb, senior, was from the North of Ireland, and came to Nova Scotia in the early part of the present century; his mother was Annie Brown, who was from the same part of Ireland.

Having mastered the rudimentary branches of knowledge, Mr. Robb, learned the tinSmith trade, at Amherst, and at twenty-one years of age commenced business in the tinware line for himself, at first with a very small stock, adding stoves, imported from the United States, a short time afterwards.

In 1866, Mr. Robb built a foundry, which he has since enlarged, adding a machine shop several years ago. The principal articles now made in this manufactory are stoves, ranges, furnaces, plows, rotary saw mills, ship castings, plain and japanned tinware, and hollowware. The firm of A. Robb and Sons also deals in engines, turbine wheels, steam-fittings, pumps, etc., and is doing a safe and prosperous business, giving employment to between thirty and forty workmen in all the shops and foundry. In stoves alone, between 2,000 and 3,000 are made annually. The wares and machinery of all kinds are well made and find a ready market, mainly in the several Maritime Provinces. A branch of the Intercolonial Railway runs to the foundry, which was put in communication with the store by means of a telephone, in October, 1877, the first enterprise of its kind in these provinces.

Mr. Robb has always lived a quiet as well as industrious life, and has shunned offices of every kind. Years ago he took great interest in the establishment of free schools, and has done