

INTRODUCTION

By the Rt. Hon. Sir R. L. BORDEN, K.C.M.G.

FOR Canadians the life of Sir Charles Tupper needs no introduction. His career as a public man is indissolubly associated with the history of Canada since Confederation.

He entered public life at the age of thirty-four in his native province of Nova Scotia, and during the twelve years which ensued before Confederation, his public record gave abundant evidence of the magnificent courage, the fine optimism and the breadth of vision which invariably characterised him in the wider arena in which he was destined to play so distinguished a part. When he entered the Legislature of Nova Scotia in 1855 his party was in opposition. Under the inspiration of his virtual though not nominal leadership, it came into power two years later; and, although defeated in 1859, he became Premier in 1863 with a large majority behind him.

Religious controversy was not unknown in Nova Scotia in those days, although happily no province in Canada is more entirely free from such dissensions at present. To this happy result the influence of Sir Charles Tupper contributed in no small measure.

In the field of constructive statesmanship Sir Charles Tupper directed his energies to two great questions. Clearly realising that railways were the modern highways of commerce, he advocated an advanced policy of railway construction. In this respect he foreshadowed the memorable part he was destined to take in the construction of a national highway that should bind together the scat-