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## LORD STRATHCONA'S RESIGNATION.

LORD Strathcona is one of the wonders of the human race. To find a man at four-score years and ten, actively engaged in doing an amount of work that the average man thirty years younger would find a tax, is in itself a marvel. Then, if we take into consideration the fact that he is one of the wealthiest men in the world and works only for the love of his country and the love of work, the marvel becomes more marvellous than ever. No man has done more to effectively build up Canada, and he has made the position of Canadian High Commissioner one of the most important offices in the service of the Crown. His inevitable resignation finds Canada hard put to it to find a man able to succeed him satisfactorily. He has utterly spoiled the position for the ordinary party hack, who thinks he has claim upon it for services rendered, and who wants it for what there is in it for himself. Lord Strathcona has in a marked degree the capacity, the tact, the industry and the wealth to make the position he occupies, a power in the Empire. It will be no small task to find a man with the same ability and energy or with the same ample means and willingness to spend in the public service. For many years, Canada has stood higher in public esteem in the United Kingdom, because it was officially represented by Lord Strathcona.

## SIR WILLIAM MACDONALD'S LATEST BENEFACTION.

SIR William Macdonald's latest gift to McGill University brings up his total benefactions to that institution to about five and a half millions of dollars. The purchase of the thirty acres of land, comprising the Law and Molson properties, lying between the Royal Victoria Hospital and Fletcher's Field and valued at \$1,200,000 settles more than one problem of great public interest and importance. It not only provides McGill with a much needed campus worthy of the University, but it confers a great benefit upon the whole community by preventing this land being cut up into building lots, and so spoiling Mount Royal Park. Sir William has certainly discovered the art of doing the maximum of public good by his generous gifts to the

public. Such institutions as McGill are not for the benefit of a class only. The scope of university work has been greatly enlarged in recent years and by none more than by men who, like Sir William Macdonald, have a real appreciation of the nature of education. Tom Brown's father, having decided to send his hopeful son to Rugby, was a little puzzled at the last moment to know what the boy was going to school for. The modern system of education, of which Sir William is one of the prophets, has no indefiniteness, though infinite variety, of aim. It aims at the mental and physical development of man and at the adding to the sum total of human knowledge. The old university system was accused of unfitting its students for the battle of life; of turning bad farmers and handicraftsmen into worse professional men and over-manning what are still invidiously called the learned professions. The modern system aims at the "drawing out"—the true "education" of the faculties, in whatever walk of life they are to be employed, and it aims at the constant increase of the capital sum of human knowledge. For this latter work such institutions as universities are indispensable. This truth was recognized three hundred years ago, by Francis Bacon. He wrote: "The works or acts of merit towards learning are conversant about three objects: the places of learning, the books of learning, and the persons of the learned. For as water whether it be the dew of heaven or the springs of the earth, doth scatter and lose itself in the ground, except it be collected into some receptacle, where it may by union, comfort and sustain itself; and for that cause, the industry of man hath made and framed spring-heads, conduits, cisterns, and pools which men have accustomed likewise to beautify and adorn with accomplishments of magnificence and state, as well as of use and necessity, so this excellent liquor of knowledge, whether it descend from divine inspiration, or spring from human sense, would soon perish and vanish to oblivion if it were not preserved in books, traditions, conferences, and places appointed; as universities, colleges, and schools, for the receipt and comforting of the same."

Sir William Macdonald has long lost the power to surprise his fellow citizens by his munificence, but their appreciation is as keen and their gratitude as deep as ever.

