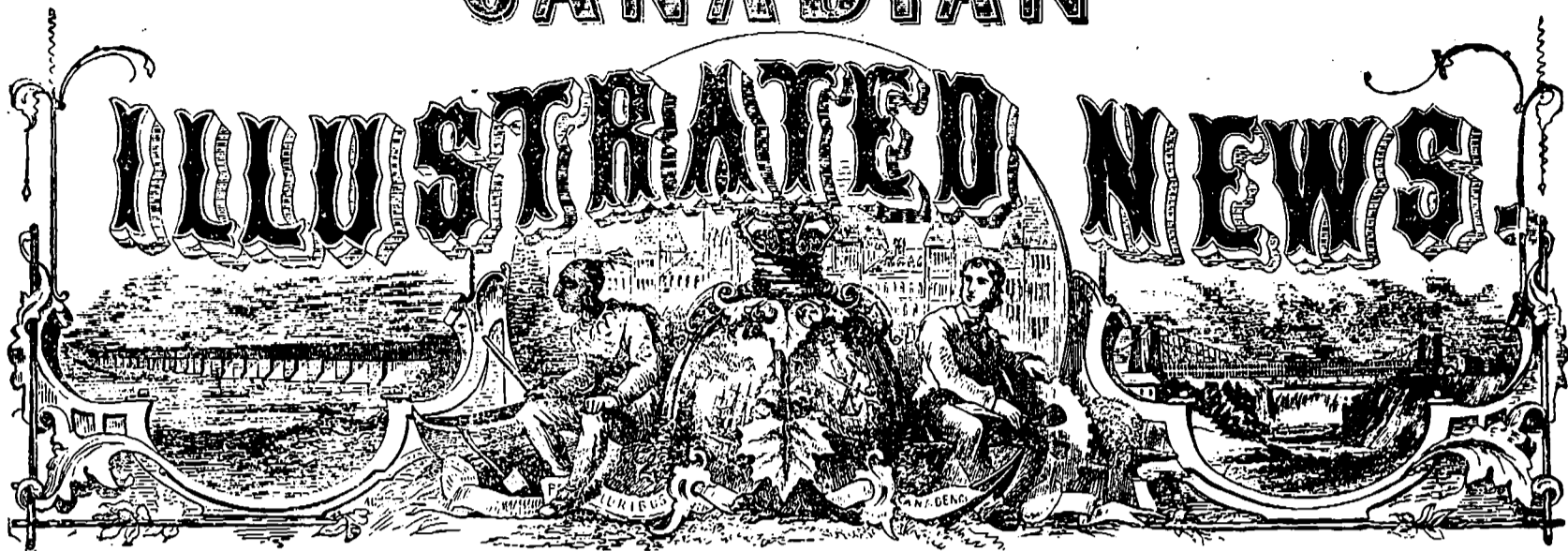


# CANADIAN



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## HON. J. YOUNG, OF MONTREAL.

The Honourable Mr. Young was born at Ayr, in Scotland, in 1811. He left school at the age of thirteen, and for eighteen months kept school in a country parish near Ayr. He arrived in Montreal in 1826, and during nine years was clerk with Messrs. John Tar- rance & Co., and of this firm he became a partner in 1835, at Quebec, where he remained for five years, during three of which he did business on his own account.

It was during his residence here in 1837 that he first took part in any public matters. He, with others, became satisfied that there would be an attempt at rebellion against the government, and was instrumental in having a memorial presented to the then Governor-General, Earl Gosford, pointing out the danger, and petitioning that corps of volunteers might be enrolled. This the Governor-General refused to do at the time, but promised that the memorialists would be called on to support the government if their assistance should be required. In about three weeks after, this became necessary. Mr. Young got command of a company in a regiment of



HON. JOHN YOUNG, MONTREAL.

light infantry, which was made up in twenty-four hours, and was the first to receive arms. During the winter the Quebec Light Infantry did regular duty in keeping night guard on the citadel.

In 1840 he returned to Montreal, joining Harrison Stephens in business. It was part of his duty to travel every winter in Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, &c., and it was by the experience thus acquired, and the intimate knowledge of the various routes to the seaboard for interior productions, that Mr. Young became so thoroughly acquainted with the great advantages of the St. Lawrence and other routes to the ocean.

Mr. Young's first public act in Montreal was to oppose the expenditure in feasting of a large sum of money raised to celebrate the birth of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. He recommended that the money should be applied in the purchase of three hundred acres of land near the city, where an asylum for the poor could be secured, and to connect it by name with the occasion. But although his motion was carried, it was afterwards re-considered, and an adverse decision adopted.

See page 109.