

M. C. Cameron.

Lieutenant Governor May, 1898, to October, 1898. Born 1832; died 1898. "One of the fathers of Canadian politics."

that appointed members should be abolished and that the Council should be superseded by an Assembly elected entirely by the people. It is worth noting too, especially in the face of recent events, that the Council declared its intention of keeping itself aloof from the party politics of the Dominion and announced that any use of the Assembly for party purposes would be deplorable. Many of the formulated requests have been already granted and the tendency is to grant them all.

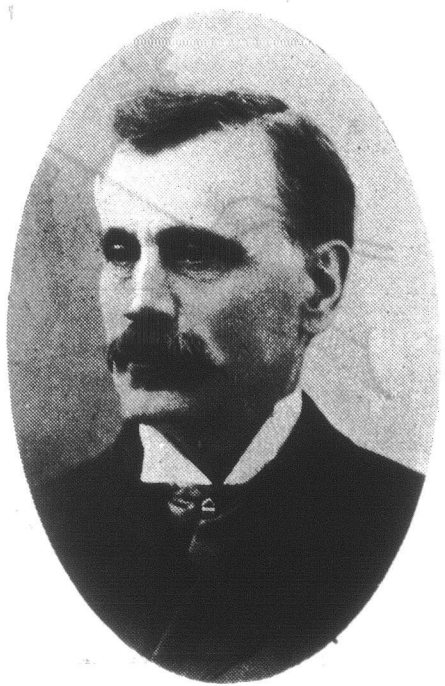
The thread of this history now returns to the work of the Northwest Council. In the speech at the opening of the session, December, 1885, the Lieutenant Governor lamented the great difficulty of consulting the members of the Council in their executive capacity when not in session, and expressed a hope that some arrangement might be made under which he could have the benefit of such assistance, thus foreshadowing the establishment of an advisory council, ministry or cabinet. The immediate arrangement was that the local members should have access to His Honour on matters affecting their respective districts.

The session in 1887 was the last of the Council. It was at this session that Mr. F. W. G. Haultain, the present premier, first took his seat as a legislator, having been selected as the representative of Macleod. It is worth noting that Mr. Haultain is at once the youngest and the oldest premier in Canada; youngest in years, longest as regards term of premiership. The opening speech from the Lieutenant Governor in 1887, spoke of the meeting as "in all probability the last session of the Northwest Council as at present formed." And so it was; the first Council of the Northwest Territories completed its career, leaving a splendid record of what had been done towards forming the history of the greatest field for immigration the world has ever seen.

#### THE NORTHWEST ASSEMBLY.

In 1886 the Federal Parliament granted the request of the Northwest Council for representation in the Dominion House of Commons and the Senate, and two Senators and four members of parliament represented the great Northwest in both these Houses, until the recent election. Now there are four

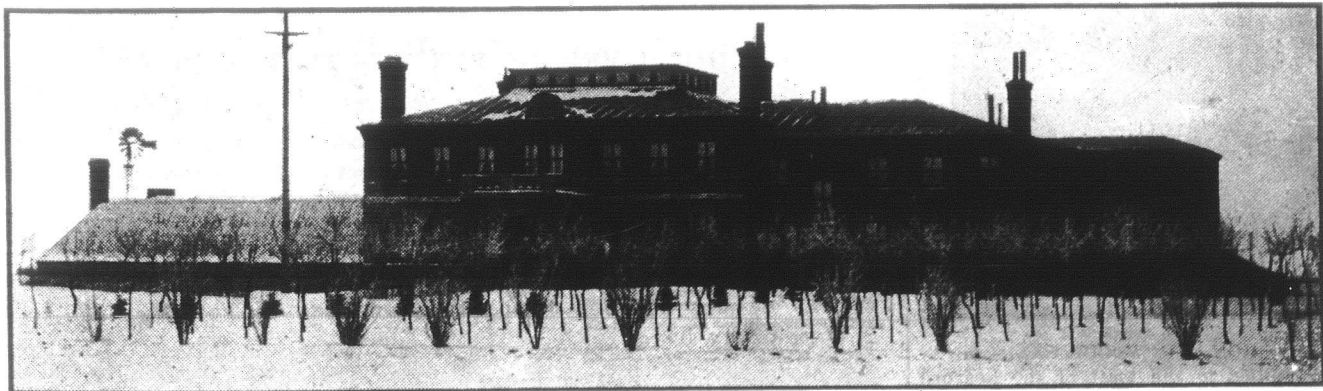
senators and ten members of the House of Commons. In 1888 the wishes of the Council were met by a large measure of autonomy. The Northwest Council was abolished and an Assembly substituted consisting of twenty-two elected members. The Lieutenant Governor had no longer a seat in the House but selected therefrom four of its members to form an advisory council on financial matters. The three judges who had seats in the old Council were retained as legal experts and were to sit in the Assembly and take part, if necessary, in debate, but they had no vote. Their chief duty was to give a legal opinion on any subject that might be submitted to them by the Assembly; and it is not saying too much when it is recorded that much of the legislation carries signs of the master-hand of Colonel Richardson, the first judge in the Northwest Territories. Even this great measure of autonomy did not work to the satisfaction of the newly constituted Assembly. It was felt that the Lieutenant Governor did not allow his advisory council that control of financial matters which it was thought they should have; and as control of expenditure was the question on which feeling was warmest, the Council resigned. A "crisis" had been reached and the battle for "responsible" government went on with considerable vigour until 1891. In that year the Federal Parliament passed an Act giving the Northwest Assembly absolute control over expenditure within those limits defined by the matters with which the Assembly was competent to deal, and provid-



A. E. Forget.

The present Lieutenant Governor of Northwest Territories. Took office in 1898, and re-appointed in 1904. "One of the best informed men on constitutional questions."

ing for the election by the Assembly of one of its members as its presiding officer. The Act also provided for the appointment by the Lieutenant Governor of an advisory council and as it is obvious this Council must possess the confidence of the Assembly, it will be seen that responsible government had virtually been attained. Indeed, the powers possessed by the Northwest Assembly are the same as those conferred upon the legislatures of the provinces, except as to borrowing powers and the custody of the lands. Finally, in 1897, the administration was entrusted to a Lieutenant Governor and an Executive



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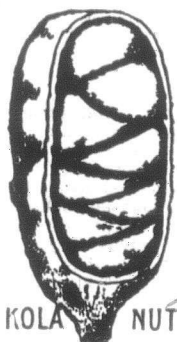
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