

Brockville. It will be seen from this brief record that Mr. Keefer has devoted the best years of an active life, and the whole of his great genius and engineering skill to the service of his native country; and in such monuments of his ability, he has left traces in old Canada as must long keep his name a prominent one in the history of our country. During the period of his official life and official connection with the government he has resided at Kingston, Montreal, St. Catharines, Quebec, Toronto and Ottawa, and in all these places he is widely known, and has won what even kings have failed to win, "love, honour and troops of friends." He is kindly in heart, manly, and frank in all his dealings.

Dickey, Hon. Robert Barry, Senator, Amherst, Nova Scotia, was born there on the 10th November, 1811. He is a son of R. McGowan Dickey, who was a representative for Cumberland county for fifteen years, until his voluntary retirement in 1851. His mother was Eleanor, daughter of Major Thomas Chapman. Both his parents are dead. His father's parents came from County Antrim, in the north of Ireland; his mother's from Yorkshire, England. Both families are still largely represented in these counties; and the descendants of those who emigrated to Cumberland county in the middle of the eighteenth century, abound in it now, as well as in Colchester, Hants, and Kings, Nova Scotia. Among the family was William Dickey, father of R. McGowan Dickey, who solved the problem of reclaiming vast tracts of marsh in Kings county, by building the celebrated "Wellington aboiteau." R. B. Dickey was educated at the Truro and Windsor academies, in the usual formula of sixty years ago, viz., English, grammar, arithmetic, Latin, and Greek, there being no professors of modern languages in those days. King's College, Windsor, of which the academy was an offshoot, has more recently sent forth many men whose careers have done honour to their *alma mater*. Young Dickey was brought up at home in early life to do farm work, in a scattered country district, which had only one place of public worship, where now there are thirteen. His father's circumstances precluded the son from remaining longer than three and a half years at school, and at the early age of fifteen Robert was articulated to the late Judge Stewart, of the Vice-Admiralty Court, then a successful practitioner at Amherst, with whom he served six years before attaining legal age for admission as an attorney. During this long

period he walked daily six miles to and from the office, except on stormy days, when he was privileged to ride on horseback. He was called to the bar in January, 1834, and succeeded to the lucrative practice in the office where he had studied, and carried on the same until he had attained a competency, ten years ago, when he retired from active practice, his predecessor's success having followed him. While engaged in practice he took part in all the leading cases; and was made a Q. C. in 1863. Ever since his admission to the bar he has lived in the town of Amherst, three miles from his birth-place, resisting pressing inducements to remove. Mr. Dickey holds the rank of lieutenant of militia, to which he was appointed in 1835. He has been registrar, surrogate, and judge of probate for twenty-one years; was U. S. consular agent at Amherst for twenty years; served many years as director of the N. S. U. Telegraph Company; was twice selected as delegate to New York to negotiate leases of lines to the American and Western Union companies; and was subsequently sent to effect a sale of the company's property to the Western Union, which was accomplished at a premium, and proved a boon to the shareholders and the public. In 1858 and 1865 he visited the Colonial office as a delegate of the Nova Scotian government, at his own expense, on the subject of the Intercolonial Railway. In 1864 he attended, as a delegate from Nova Scotia, the Charlottetown and Quebec Union conferences, and was the only one of thirty-three delegates who declined, while in favour of union, to subscribe to the Quebec resolutions, on the ground that the financial terms were not fair to the Maritime provinces. These being largely modified in London, where he was not asked to attend, he supported the union resolutions in the Nova Scotia Legislative Council. He was called to that body in January, 1858, and continued a member till confederation, when he was appointed to the Senate by Royal proclamation. While in the Legislative Council, he defeated the Synod Bill, introduced by the Bishop of Nova Scotia, and carried the Substitute Act, under which this church has been working for years; secured the present Joint Stock Companies Act; and was largely instrumental in effecting arrangements for the transfer of Nova Scotia coal areas to the government a quarter of a century ago. Senator Dickey is a shareholder in the Amherst Boot and Shoe Factory, still in successful operation; was associated with others in the Spring Hill Mining Com-