

such as the piano, organ, violin and orchestral instruments, cornet, and all other brass instruments, voice culture, etc., while the grade system, which has been found to be the most thorough method of imparting knowledge in musical as well as in other branches, is strictly adhered to. By virtue of his fine natural ability, high musical attainments and energy of character, Mr. O'Brien is well fitted for the position of director of such a high-class institution, the annual concerts in connection with which have been distinguished by the rendering of the best amateur programmes ever given in Hamilton. As a conductor, Mr. O'Brien has a high standing, and it is worthy of note that at the entertainments given by the Hamilton minstrels (amateurs) in 1890, he handled the chorus with masterly skill and effect—a chorus of male voices which was conceded to be the best ever got together in Canada. As a performer on the piano and organ, he has time and again distinguished himself in various parts of the country, winning the highest praise for his exquisite taste and brilliancy of execution. In public matters outside of his profession, to which he is enthusiastically devoted, he takes but little interest. In religion, he is a Roman Catholic. In 1879 (Aug. 5), he married Anna, daughter of the late Wm. Wellington Harris, a native of New York city, and for many years an extensive farmer in Nelson township, county of Halton. Personally, Mr. O'Brien is a gentleman of courteous and affable demeanour, and he is held in high regard by a large circle of friends, and esteemed by the public generally wherever he is known.

HON. C. A. P. PELLETIER, C.M.G., B.C.L.,
Q.C., P.C.,

Quebec, Que.

HON. CHAS. ALPHONSE PANTALEON PELLETIER, C.M.G., B.C.L., Q.C., P.C., Senator of the Dominion, is the eldest son of the late J. M. Pelletier, a successful and highly respected merchant and farmer of Rivière Ouelle, Quebec; his mother, Julie Painchaud, having been a sister of Rev. C. F. Painchaud, the founder of St. Anne's College. Our subject was born at Rivière Ouelle, on the 22nd of January, 1837. He first attended Ste. Anne's College and, having graduated, he entered Laval University, where he entered upon a course of law. As a student he early manifested the quickness of apprehension and sound reasoning powers which, combined with great energy, were subsequently to lift him to a first place among the prominent men of Quebec. He graduated with the degree of B.C.L. in 1858. He pursued his law studies in the office of Mr. L. G. Baillairgé, Q.C., then rapidly making his way

into prominence as an able lawyer. In 1860, Mr. Pelletier was called to the bar and entered into a partnership with his former principal, a partnership which has ever since continued. Mr. Pelletier soon made himself known as a sound and brilliant lawyer, well read, clear-sighted and judicious. His practice increased with a rapidity most flattering to one just entering the ranks of the profession. The law alone, however, did not afford sufficient scope for his many-sided energy. From his early manhood he was an ardent politician, espousing the Liberal cause with enthusiasm, which made him a power even when he was in the minority. He took a deep interest also in every thing calculated to advance the interest of his people, the French-Canadians. He has been three times President of the St. Jean Baptiste Society of Quebec. He entered the militia service also and became major of his regiment, the Voltigeurs de Quebec, a name that was immortalized under De Salesberry in the war of 1812. During the Fenian raid, the Voltigeurs were called out with other corps, Major Pelletier being in command. Soon afterwards, however, the combined claims of politics and his increasing law practice made it necessary for him to close his military record. He accordingly resigned and was allowed to retire, retaining his rank. In the general election of 1867, Mr. Pelletier was a candidate for Kamouraska. There was at that time not a single representative from the south shore between Lotbinière and Bonaventure. It was generally admitted before the election that Mr. Pelletier would defeat his then opponent, the late Hon. Mr. J. C. Chapais, but a special return was made which virtually declared neither candidate elected. This caused a great deal of heated discussion about the form of the return, but this was ended by the holding of another election. This time there was no doubt of the result; the Liberal candidate was elected, thus breaking the solid Conservative line, and marking the first of the great achievements for his party which are credited to Mr. Pelletier. He held his place in the Commons for eight years, during which time he made a most favorable impression and achieved great success. His popularity with his people grew in proportion to his advancement in the House. In the general election of 1872, which, as history tells us, and as many can well remember, was followed by the overthrow of the Conservative Government, he was elected by a large majority, and in 1874 he was returned by acclamation. His friends in the Province of Quebec also sought to avail themselves of his services, and in 1873 he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of the Province. Within a year, however, the bill to prohibit dual representation was passed by the Dominion Government, and Mr. Pelletier was