

SIR JOHN IS DEAD.

The Premier's Struggle at an End.

SKETCH OF THE CAREER OF THE GREAT STATESMAN.

Ottawa, June 7.—"Gentlemen, Sir John Macdonald is dead." The speaker was Joseph Pope, the Premier's private Secretary. The place was the gate of Earncliffe. The time, 10:25, and the parties addressed a group of correspondents. He added still in a husky voice, "He died at 10:15 without pain and in peace."

The representatives of the press turned to the adjacent tent in which the telegraph instruments were already clicking off the fatal news by private messages, brought out by Mr. Pope, and they flashed the news by land and sea to newspapers in all parts of the English-speaking world.

The brief announcement, "Sir John Macdonald is dead," meant so much that the words kept ringing in the ears of those who heard it and the mind seemed hardly capable of realizing that the most prominent figure in the public life of Canada for 40 years had disappeared for ever.

But a few days ago he was sitting in the councils of the nation, the directing spirit, but a few days ago he was planning a political program for the future months. The tolling of the bell in the city tower rang out on the still night air telling Ottawa that her foremost citizen, the head of the Government, the great leader of a historic party was no more. The people needed not to enquire the meaning of the tolling bell. They knew when they heard it that the master of Earncliffe was dead.

THE APPROACH OF DEATH.

Saturday was a perfect June day. Still as the air of the tropics, and bright with sunshine. The grounds of Earncliffe were deserted. The members of the household were inside waiting for the summons to come to one who, having lived a long and active life, was now dying in the peaceful calm of a summer's day. Occasionally visitors approached the gates, read the last bulletin, made whispered enquiries and went away, wondering at the marvellous resistance of a very old man.

CONSCIOUS THAT HIS RACE WAS RUN.

It appears that from the day three weeks ago when the Premier was struck speechless while in the presence of the Governor-General he was conscious that his end was near, although he fought against it and insisted that there was no danger and that he must work, evidently trying to convince himself that his fears were unfounded. At length the worst was realized, and what was known to himself, his Cabinet and his home circle, was revealed to everybody by the sudden and fearful stroke which descended while he was quietly and hopefully conversing with his physician. What followed since that memorable night every reader in Canada knows.

And now death, like a skillful armor, was slowly encasing the wasted form which the soul was soon to quit. The feet and limbs had grown cold, and life was steadily leaving the body. Outside not a sound disturbed the still evening, not a leaf stirred the motionless air. No one came to the house. The time for human help had gone. No one could now stay the silent reaper. The bright young spirit who had ardently and valiantly won a wide fame and remained in later years in the front of battle, had at length reached the brink of eternity. Rev. Mr. Pollard, of the English church, came down and was admitted to the sick chamber. From that time till 9 o'clock was one long period of suspense. The Premier was unconscious, as indeed he had been during the past 24 hours and in a comatose state.

THE SUMMONS COMES.

At 9 o'clock the physician noticed a change and notified the family, who gathered round the bedside, conscious that the end was now at hand. His irregular and labored breathing, which had been for hours a series of gasps, and had now reached the rate of five a minute, ceased, and in its place there came a deep, regular and ordinary respiration. For another hour the terrible waiting and suspense continued. At last without a struggle his heart stopped beating, the breath of life left the body, and Azrael departed with the soul of Sir John Macdonald. Like death, as little Elsie described it to the Prince, he simply ceased to breathe.

"It's easy to die when life's work's done. To pass from the earth like a harvest day's sun."—Darley McGee.

Sir John was aged 76 years and five months.

SIR JOHN'S CAREER.

John Alexander Macdonald was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on Jan. 11, 1813. He was second son of Hugh Macdonald, who lived originally in the parish of Dornoch, Sutherlandshire, but who, when John A. was aged 5 years, removed to Canada. This was during the great emigration movement in 1820. The family settled in Kingston, which was then the most important town in Upper Canada, and after residing there for upwards of four years removed to Quinte Bay, leaving John Alexander, then in his tenth year—at school in Kingston. At the Royal Grammar

School he remained until his sixteenth year, when his father article him in the office of George Mackenzie, where he threw all his energies into the study of law. At school he was a good all round scholar. At law he soon excelled and was called to the bar at 21, an age at which law students to-day very often only enter on their course.

When he commenced active practice the first mutterings of coming trouble shook the country, and soon Papineau in Lower Canada and William Lyon Mackenzie in Upper Canada rushed to arms. A body of hunters, as the invaders were called, under command of a pole named Von Shoultz, crossed from the American side over to Prescott, but Shoultz was captured and his followers killed and dispersed. Courts martial were established at London and Kingston, and at the latter city Shoultz and his comrades were put on trial. Young Macdonald defended the unfortunate Pole, who had been induced by allusive representations to cross the border after the rebellion proper had been put down. Barristers often at a stroke create a name, but none ever did so more signally than did this young lawyer in the defence of the Pole whom no ability could save from hanging in the face of the evidence.

Thus, in 1839, at 25 years of age, he took rank as a leader of the bar. In the same year he entered into a legal partnership with Alexander Campbell, now Sir Alexander and Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.

HIS FIRST SEAT IN PARLIAMENT.

In 1844 Mr. Macdonald was elected to represent Kingston in the second legislature under the union, defeating Mr. Manahan. He entered Parliament at a very trying time. Sir Charles Metcalfe, the new Governor-General, had come freighted with notions of authority imbibed in India and Jamaica, and was not disposed to submit to dictation by a Canadian House. A quarrel with the ministry resulted over some appointments to office and the latter resigned. The historical battle for responsible government followed, in which the Conservatives found themselves by hereditary duty called upon to support the Governor-General. The young member for Kingston showed his great tact by withdrawing the strong temptation to break himself on the wheel. He did not plunge with premature impetuosity, as most young members do, into the debates of the House. His first speech was a bold one—in reply to Hon. Robert Baldwin—but it did him credit.

In May, 1849, he was elected by Attorney-General Draper for the vacant office of Receiver-General, who said: "Your turn has come at last Macdonald." Very soon he assumed the management of the Crown Lands Department, which was in a very topsy-turvy state, and with surprising speed brought it under business methods.

SIX YEARS IN OPPOSITION.

On the defeat of the Draper Ministry in 1848 by Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Lafontaine the stirring times took on more sustaining guise, but Mr. Macdonald was conspicuous for his wise attitude. Six years in Opposition afforded him valuable discipline, and when he again sat on the Government benches there was but a single antagonist in the House for whom he was not a full match. While in Opposition he opposed the reform of King's College and the Rebellion Losses Bill. It was an insecure period for governments, and the Baldwin-Lafontaine Ministry showed signs of weakness. Finally the double-headed leadership made way for Sir Francis Hincks in 1851, and then it became apparent that Reform disruption was complete. It broke into two sections, one led by Sir Francis, the other by Geo. Brown. Against foes within and without, the Government staggered along until 1853, when an appeal to the country caused its overthrow. Then came a great surprise. The Reform wing which coalesced with the Conservatives in the fight was passed over in the House and the defeated wing joined the Conservatives in a Coalition Cabinet. In this McNabb-Morin combination Mr. Macdonald became Attorney-General, and great interest was excited by speculating as to whether the Reform or Conservative element would predominate. That the latter prevailed was chiefly due to the tact of the Attorney-General. Sir Allan McNab was soon relegated to the sick room and John A. Macdonald led the Ontario section and George E. Cartier the Quebec section.

INTERPROVINCIAL TROUBLES.

Between Upper and Lower Canada there was a growing gulf of suspicion and damaging distrust, which no man could more to remove than John A. Macdonald. His remarkable personality spanned the chasm for a long period and prevented complications the outcome of which can scarcely be surmised at this day. Discontent was everywhere and public sentiment was in a dangerous state of unrest. The Sanfield Macdonald Government came, but melted away as though in one night. The Tache-Macdonald (John A.) Administration followed, but its life hung in a ticklish balance all its days. Another coalition followed in which Geo. Brown, Oliver Mowat and Wm. McDougall represented the Reformers.

CONFEDERATION A FACT.

As historians will tell, it was Sir John Macdonald who shaped the movement for Confederation, conducting the negotiations in the Maritime Provinces and in England and united the best energies of Canadian public men in favor

of the great achievement. This is the greatest work of his life. His former labors led up to it, his afterward made up of vigorous efforts to complete and perfect it. He was called upon to lead the first Administration after Confederation and had the honor of knighthood conferred upon him. The friendship between himself and Sir George Cartier came to a singular end. When Imperial honors were bestowed upon those instrumental in bringing about Confederation Cartier considered himself slighted, and attributed the fact to the advice of his colleagues. Sir John did his best to mollify the wounded susceptibilities of the other by recommending and securing for him higher honors than his own, but friendship was never re-established.

In 1872 he appealed to the country in a general election and again secured a majority.

THE PACIFIC SCANDAL.

Immediately after the general election of 1872 Sir John Macdonald fell on evil times. Hardly had the election concluded before rumors began to fly about to the effect that the elections had been won by gross corruption. There was nothing remarkable in this as it is the common cry of the defeated party after an election. But in this case the cry instead of waning as time elapsed rather increased and grew in magnitude. The substance of these charges was that Sir John Macdonald and some of his colleagues had accepted from Sir Hugh Allan large sums of money, which had been used in corrupting the electorate and winning their way back to power. It will be remembered that Sir Hugh Allan, head of the great Allan Steamship Line, was also president of a company which proposed to build the railway across the continent. For the purpose of securing the return of Sir John Macdonald and his friends, who Sir Hugh realized, would be more favorable to his proposals than the Opposition would be likely to be, it was said that the great steamship owner had subscribed \$300,000 to the campaign funds. Bit by bit the evidence on this point accumulated. Letters were published that had been got in an underhand way, but the first real thunder of the storm was heard on the floor of Parliament. About thirty days after the first session of the second parliament had re-assembled, Lucius Seth Huntington, a member for the Province of Quebec, stood up in his place in the House and read from a paper in his hand the resolution, which has since become historical, calling for a committee of seven members to investigate the charges. Mr. Huntington merely read this resolution without further comment. There was a moment of painful silence in the House. The Premier was motionless as a statue. The Speaker then put the resolution and it was voted down by a majority of 31.

TOO HEAVY TO BE IGNORED.

Such weighty charges, however, could not drop thus. Nor was it to be so. Next day in the House Sir John Macdonald gave notice of a motion, which was passed on the 8th of April, to the effect:

"That a select committee of five members be appointed by this House to enquire into and report upon the several matters contained and stated in a resolution moved by the Hon. Mr. Huntington, member for Shefford, relating to the Canadian Pacific Railway, with power to send for papers and records, and to report the evidence from time to time and if need be to sit after the prorogation of Parliament."

The committee was composed of Messrs. Blanchet, Blake, Dorion, Macdonald and Cameron. The committee got possession of some important documents, and some of these were published in the Montreal Herald. They were letters and telegrams sent by Sir Hugh Allan to two Chicago gentlemen—Geo. W. McMullen and Chas. M. Smith. In more than one of these Sir Hugh spoke of an expenditure of \$300,000 in promoting the scheme to secure the contract for building the Canadian Pacific. Later still telegrams of Sir John Macdonald, Sir George E. Cartier, Sir Hector Langevin and other members of the Ministry were produced, which showed that these gentlemen had drawn for large sums of money for election purposes. These documents were so incriminating that Lord Dufferin, the Governor-General, determined to hold an extra session of Parliament, beginning August 13, 1873. Nevertheless the House only met to prorogue. The committee was discharged and the whole matter referred to a Royal Commission consisting of three judges. The commissioners were Judges Day, Pollette and Gowan.

NOTHING COULD SAVE SIR JOHN.

Parliament met again on October 23. The report of the Royal Commission was laid before it. It was perhaps the most memorable session of the Canadian Parliament ever held. The attack on Sir John Macdonald began at once and some of the ablest speeches ever heard on the floor distinguished it. It raged for seven days, during the course of which the hero of it all made one of the ablest addresses that had ever issued from his lips. He spoke five hours, concluding with the statement that he had given the best of his heart, his brain and his life to the service of his country.

Nothing could save him, however, and after the debate had raged for seven days he, on November 5, announced in a crowded House the resignation of his Ministry.

It was difficult to adequately appreciate the weight of the blow. It was a poor ending of 25 years of public life. It would have crushed even an extraordinary man. The rapidity with which he recovered from its effects and once more leaped into public favor and to power remain to this day the historical marvel of our time.

FALLEN UPON EVIL DAYS.

Sir John Macdonald's political career was closed, so everybody said. He had ruined the Conservative party. A proposition was made to depose him which was only prevented by the plucky opposition of a journalist, who stood in the breach and reminded the ingrates who would have knifed him how much they owed to their old leader. But even after this acceptance and endorsement the old leader endured many trials and mortifications. The Liberals were delighted at the action of their opponents. They felt assured that the man whom they described as thrice guilty would have too heavy a load to carry. There was no denying the seriousness of the charge which had been established against him. The Conservative chief, then once been mysteriously hinted would one day be given to the world, but in the meantime that defence could not be used. There is reason to believe that he at times himself considered that the party would be relieved of a burden if he would voluntarily retire. Indeed, it is a fact, although not generally known, that he authorized C. H. Mackintosh, editor of the Ottawa Citizen, to announce his retirement from public life. Mr. Mackintosh, who was a warm follower of Sir John Macdonald, prevailed on him to delay the announcement with the result that it never reached the light.

RETURNED TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW.

During this period of eclipse he lived in Toronto. After a quarter of a century in public life he was still a poor man. He entered once more on the practice of his profession and could be seen occasionally in the courts at Os- goode Hall. It has been asserted that in the darkest of those days some fair weather friends who thought that his sun had set were inclined to turn their backs upon their old-time leader. He doubtless realized to the full the words which the immortal bard put into the mouth of the great cardinal who hung on princes' favors.

But slowly the tide turned. The National Policy was evolved and a Conservative club, bearing the name of the National, was reared largely through his influence. The matchless politician with his trained finger on the public pulse read its very heart beats during these four years of opposition. The elections of 1878 came on and everybody knows what happened on that fateful 17th of September. The man who had less than five years before been hurled almost ignominiously from power returned to it as the chief of a strong and exultant party.

Of Sir John Macdonald's subsequent career the salient points are warm in the public memory. Since the election of 1878 he has submitted his claims three times to the Canadian people, and three times they have declared him to be the darling son. In that period two great measures stand prominently forth—the upbuilding of the National Policy and the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

AMERICAN PRESS COMMENTS.

The death at this time of the Canadian Premier may have an important bearing on the questions at issue between this republic and the Dominion. Sir John Macdonald, with all his faults, was easily first statesman in his party, and it is doubtful if the Tories are to retain control, whether Sir John Thompson or another can take the place thus vacated by the hand of death.—Washington Star.

Sir John is a very picturesque figure in current Canadian history. What he lacks as a statesman he makes up as a politician. He is an ideal wire-puller, knows how to handle public opinion with skill and tact and is a thorough skilled expert in all the tricks and strategy of a campaign. His loss to the Tory party will be very serious, for though there are many able men in Canada, there is not one who can quite fill his place.—New York Herald.

While Americans have not always taken kindly to Sir John's political views and the principles of government for which he has so successfully contended, they cannot but admire his adroit tactics and his wonderful faculty of accomplishing whatever he has undertaken. As a leader of men he has had few equals on the American continent. Dashing, bold, brilliant, he has been ever careful in detail, rigid in discipline and far-seeing in plan of campaign.—Minneapolis Tribune.

Sir John's sphere has been limited, but he gave himself up to it; his whole life, his thoughts and dreams and aspirations were devoted to Canada. He has served the country of his adoption well and faithfully and it has repaid him by such loyal allegiance as few among the world's kings can command. There is no successor to Macdonald, no statesman worthy to take the chair at the head of the Council table where he sat so long. With his death disappears the most formidable obstacle to that closer union of Canada with the United States which is written in the book of fate as the inevitable destiny of the continent.—Brooklyn Times.

He has devoted himself to the best interests of Canada, as he understood them, and no enemy ever said truthfully of him that he was ever governed by personal ambition or the hope of financial gain in his conduct of public affairs.—Toledo Blade.

There is something about Sir John that the American people, fair even to natural political opponents, cannot help admiring—his loyalty to the idea of Canadian sovereignty within Canadian lines, his passionate devotion to the Canadian flag and his sensitiveness with reference to all that concerns the autocratic prestige of that still half-colonial Dominion.—Rochester Union.

CANADIAN PRESS NOTES.

Sir John Macdonald's art was patriotism. His one question was, What will benefit the country? To be able to answer that question—to be able to find the means and to apply them—these were the qualities which made him great.—Hamilton Spectator.

Sir John Macdonald was one who has never swerved from the paths of honor and duty nor deviated a single iota from his loyalty to Canada and the Empire, and whose memory will ever possess a thousand claims to the reverence and honor of his fellow-countrymen in this and all succeeding ages.—Quebec Chronicle.

Sir John has been a remarkable man, and his personal great ability is readily acknowledged. While many earnestly combated his public career, it must be remembered that he was sustained by a recognized majority of the electorate, and to such the protesting minority loyally bow. He has been an honored public servant, and will be universally missed.—Bowmanville Sun.

No other statesman that Canada has ever produced has possessed to the same high degree the personal qualities that go to make a man the popular darling of the people. He was generous and kind alike to friends and opponents in their personal intercourse and being easy of approach by the humblest citizen, his jaunty style and frequent witticisms made him a favorite of the masses.—Stratford Beacon.

Additional Local Items.

DOMINION DAY COMES ON WEDNESDAY.

The majority of the newspapers of Canada are in deep mourning this week out of respect for the dead Premier.

A CUT has been ordered on the salaries of Grand Trunk officials of five per cent, upon salaries between \$500 and \$750, and of 10 per cent, upon all salaries above \$750.

AN eastern Ontario exchange says:—But though Sir John Macdonald leaves us his work remains behind. His life history is the history of Canada, and the great Dominion is by his wisdom so well and deeply founded that no passing blow can effect its stability and permanence. Well has he done his work and well does he deserve his rest. Of Sir John Macdonald a loving country may truly say that he will well have earned the epitaph:

Life's race well run,
Life's work well done,
Life's crown well won,
Now comes rest.

Donegal.

John Barr, V. S., of this place, late of located at Stratford, has removed to Manitoba. Success.

The death of "The Old Chieftain" is the principal topic of conversation this week. Much regret is expressed that he should have been removed from this stage of action.

James Dickson, jr., is away this week attending the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church at Kingston. He will also attend the funeral of Sir John Macdonald on Thursday.

Donegal and vicinity has been the scene of great activity in the building line this summer. Messrs. John Cowan, Hugh Anderson and Walter Johnston have just completed stone basements under their barns, while Messrs. Jos. McLennan and Wm. Hemphill have put in stone basements and also enlarged their old buildings. Mr. Hemphill is now the owner of a barn 72x80 feet with splendid stabling under it 40x72 feet.

Poole.

Mrs. A. Burnett and Mrs. R. Fleming are visiting friends in Galt and vicinity.

John Hepler had a stable and driving shed combined raised on Tuesday of last week.

Will Shearer and Thos. Burnett attended the Foresters' service in North Mornington church on Sunday.

Thos. Magwood, M. P. P., occupied the pulpit here last Sunday evening in place of Rev. Mr. Rupert, who was absent attending the Conference at Berlin.

Miss Kate Burnett and Mr. and Mrs. Anderson attended the marriage of Mrs. Kelly, daughter of Mr. Oman, to Mr. Robb, of Chesley, last Wednesday evening.

Robert Lintock while engaged in building a bridge over Moir's creek last Tuesday had his leg broken below the knee by having it crushed between a sleeper and a spike. He was taken home to Millbank and had the broken limb set, and is doing nicely.