

a good field for operation. He is largely interested in oil refining; and is president and managing director of the Imperial Oil Refining Company, an immense concern, composed of a wealthy corporation of oil men. His firm of F. A. Fitz-Gerald & Co. are largely interested in the production of crude oil, and it owns extensive and valuable oil producing property in Enniskillen, Lambton county. Mr. Fitz-Gerald is likewise president of the Oil Refiners' Association. He is also president of the London Furniture Manufacturing Company, and through his superior business ability restored an establishment that was fast decaying to one of the most prosperous concerns in western Canada, giving employment to a large number of artisans. He is also associated, as director, with several other important financial, manufacturing and commercial institutions in Ontario; and, regarded in any and every light, may be set down as a representative Canadian.

Mercier, Hon. Honore, Q.C., Montreal, M.P.P. for St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, was born at Iberville in the above province, on the 15th October, 1840. His father was born at St. Pierre, Montmagny, and established himself at St. Athanase, and later at Iberville, of which place he was one of the first settlers. Honore Mercier received a thorough literary education at the Jesuit's College, Montreal; studied law with Laflambe & Papineau (now both judges), and was admitted to practice in 1865. While yet a law student he embarked in journalism, and gave his support to the Macdonald-Sicotte Liberal administration of 1862. Upon his admission to the bar he dropped journalism for a time, and devoted his energies to his profession. His ardour, industry and natural abilities soon gave him a foremost place at the bar; and thenceforth he was a marked man. In 1871 he appeared in the political arena at Bagot, as a supporter of M. Langelier (later Hon. Francois), the Liberal candidate. The following year, upon the earnest solicitations of his friends, he offered himself for Rouville, in the House of Commons, and was elected. After the downfall of the Conservative government, in 1873, M. Mercier yielded his seat to M. Cheval, in 1874, to avoid dividing the vote of the Liberal party in the case of the redoubtable Conservative candidate, M. Giguault, and on retiring again to private life, became partner to Mr. Bourgeois, of St. Hyacinthe, now judge in Three Rivers. In 1878 M. Mercier was the Liberal candidate for the House of Commons for St. Hyacinthe,

and lost his election by six votes. On the 3rd June, 1879, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly to represent St. Hyacinthe, with a majority of 307, and was admitted into the Joly administration as solicitor-general, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Hon. P. Bachand. He held this office till the administration went out of office in the same year. In 1881, M. Mercier left St. Hyacinthe for Montreal, where he still practises as a lawyer; and at the general provincial election of December, 1881, he was elected by acclamation for his old constituency. M. Mercier's life has been a very busy and an extremely useful one; and has been devoted in turn to journalism, law and politics, and sometimes to all three together. He is ever ready for duty, and when he strikes a blow it is invariably with an iron hand. He is a ready and effective speaker, a strong and brilliant writer, and an extremely capable lawyer. Although in political fight he strikes hard, he never "hits when down," or "below the belt," but is honourable and even generous with opponents. M. Mercier is a moderate Liberal, and he has never put party above his country, or his personal interests before the public good. He has a true and high appreciation of the beautiful and the true, and as *L'Opinion Publique* says "loves the world, notwithstanding its imperfection, and politics in spite of their annoyances." In 1883 M. Mercier was chosen leader of the Liberal opposition in the Quebec Assembly, at the instance of the then leader, Mr. Joly, and still holds that position. He married on the 29th May, 1866, Leopoldine Boivin, of St. Hyacinthe, but she died. He married again on May 9th, 1871, Virginie St. Denis, of the same city.

McGregor, James, Detroit, Michigan, was born in Scotland in 1830, from the good old McGregor stock, and came to Canada in 1855. He was in charge of some of the car shops of the Great Western Railway for a long period; but in 1860 was selected to look after the car shops of the Detroit & Milwaukee Railway at Detroit, as master car builder. Here he remained until 1869, when he resigned, to assume the superintendency of the large car building shops of the Michigan Car Company, at Detroit, and he is still connected with that company. Mr. McGregor has a full share of this world's goods, and has recently built a fine modern house, on Jefferson avenue, Detroit, where he and his family reside during the winter. In summer the household betake themselves to Mr. McGregor's