

*RIGHT HON. BARON STRATHCONA AND MOUNT
ROYAL P.C., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., LL.D.*

We noted at the time (ante page 58) the death of this great man, but want of space has forbidden until now any more extended reference to his career. A holiday number gives us this opportunity; and if an excuse were wanted, it may be noted that he was an honorary Doctor of Laws of seven of the great Universities of Great Britain and America. History gives to Sir John A. Macdonald the palm of being the greatest native born Canadian, and it will name Lord Strathcona as the greatest of her citizens, not born within her boundaries.

Donald Alexander Smith, first Baron Strathcona, was born in 1820 at Forres, coming of simple Scottish stock. His father was a cottar, living in a small house by the burnside. As a youth Donald Smith went to Aberdeen for a short time, but he had no great taste for tame business life at home. Had his inclinations lain that way he might have entered the Manchester house of his relatives, the Grants, the originals of Dickens's "Cheeryble Brothers." But those were days when young Highlanders dreamed of adventure and fortune in lonely colonial wilds. Such dreams were greatly stimulated by the action of that Earl of Selkirk whose name is territorially perpetuated in the Colony to which he allured so many hardy and enterprising young Scots. Instead, therefore, of settling down at home, Donald Smith obtained, through an uncle, John Stewart, described as a "notable fur trader," a junior clerkship in the service of the Hudson Bay Company. This was in his eighteenth year. So began a romantic career not easily matched, even in the story of the indomitable fight for fortune made by the roving sons of the North.

For thirteen years young Donald Smith was in the rude solitudes of the Labrador. The sort of life has been admirably depicted by Canadian writers, proud of the flavour of romance which it has given to the chequered history of the colony. Donald Smith endured all the risks and hardships of the life,