

# MEN OF TO-DAY

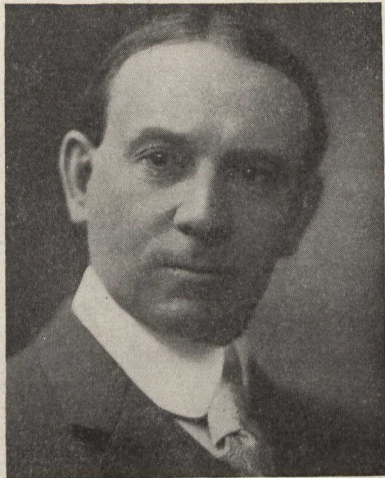
## THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ALBERTA

**H**ON. C. W. CROSS, Attorney-General of Alberta, sitting one day in his old office on Jasper Avenue, Edmonton—that was ten years ago—said he would not be surprised to see a city of twenty thousand there on the Saskatchewan. This is merely an introductory statement, to call attention to the fact that even cabinet ministers out west sometimes think about commonplace things. Mr. Cross may not have been thinking about a portfolio—though I rather think he was. You never could tell precisely from “Charlie’s” talk just what he was thinking. Neither can you now. He has a portfolio. He intends to keep it. No man in Alberta better deserves it. From the drop of the hat when he arrived there just at the time of the Klondike rush, “Charlie” Cross, known to lacrosse teams in the east and at Toronto University as “The Slugger,” has run the race with an eye single to the glory of the cause in Alberta. He was one of the first Liberal organisers; helping to bring order out of chaos and to substitute the machine for the one-man politics of Frank Oliver. When he went to Edmonton the real new West was just in the making. The half-breeds who had rolled up such huge majorities for Oliver in the Dominion House were beginning to be outnumbered by “Sifton’s sheepskins.” The streets of Edmonton were a carnival of all nations; a strangely interesting medley of costumes and languages and potentialities—ah! that’s the word. The political leaders may have been interested in the picture show. They were more concerned over the political prospects. What kind of voters would these immigrants make? It was a serious question. The fact that most of them in Alberta have made Liberal voters only partly solves the problem which Hon. C. W. Cross and his colleagues have been wrestling with now these several years.

Mr. Cross has been an astute, diplomatic and hardworking minister. He is also said to have been a very “promising” candidate. Well, he may not have done precisely all the things after election that he promised to do before election—for it’s a little difficult to be certain what a whole government will stand for, even with a majority eleven times the size of the Opposition. But he has done a good deal. Just how well he has worked the liquor laws, for instance—a hundred miles from Edmonton down in the poplars on the flats of the Battle River used to be a hotel; shut up on account of the lack of 500 population; no pretence of keeping even a bottle of beer afterwards; oldest inhabitant and best-known citizen used to the freedom of the plains, stops at the old tavern on a hot August day; assured regretfully that there is not even a bottle of beer left. The administration of law in that country sometimes depends on whether or not a diligent man from the north may be allowed to carry liquor into Athabasca. A year ago last summer the Attorney-General’s Department opened up law courts in the Peace River country, which was quite as practical as regulating liquor since the whiskey zone is extending over that country which was all dry once, except upon occasion. Mr. Cross is a progressive minister. He is a prime booster for Alberta. He believes in the completest kind of autonomy. He would have the mounted police under provincial government control, because the kinds of criminals they have in the West now are more numerous than they used to be; and whereas the penitentiary is a provincial matter why not the police who keep the penitentiary supplied?

However, this may have been merely a casual deliverance on the part of the Attorney-General, who is an exceedingly good entertainer in his own way. Just lately Mr. Cross has been acting in the role of apologist for the Government whose railway policy has been attacked head-on by the Minister of Public Works, now resigned, and by the entire southern wing of the majority in the Legislature headed by Mr. Boyle—in a four-hour speech in the House on Friday last. Mr. Cross is not by nature an insurgent. He does not believe in violence. If the present political tangle ever gets the kinks taken out of it, no doubt much of the credit will be due the Attorney-General, who is a strong constitutionalist and a sunny-ways diplomat.

There have been persistent rumours that Mr. Cross has an ambition to become Premier of Alberta. In the ordinary course of events Mr. Rutherford will probably retire in a few years. He has done the preliminary work of organisation most efficiently. During the next



Hon. C. W. Cross,  
Attorney General of Alberta.



Mr. Albert Champagne,  
The Member for Battleford.



Mr. Napoleon Champagne,  
Controller in the City of Ottawa.

ten years the work of government will multiply largely. Some such man as Mr. Cross, trained in western politics, will naturally succeed.

## THE MEMBER FOR BATTLEFORD

**A**LBERT CHAMPAGNE, the genial member for Battleford, is still a young man. He was born in Ottawa forty years ago. In 1885 he joined the Northwest Mounted Police, and went west, to what was then the great lone land, and served ten years in the force. Being a man of great energy and sound judgment, he eventually tired of the police force and started out for himself in business. He is now a successful rancher. His energy, push and resourcefulness did not long escape the eyes of a people who are looking for live representatives. Champagne was elected as the representative of Battleford, in the first Saskatchewan Assembly, where his untiring energy and success in the interests of his constituents soon marked him as a man of Federal calibre. When Battleford was formed into a constituency prior to the last general election, he received not only the nomination of his own party, but the almost unanimous support of all his former opponents. He was elected by about 1300 of a majority in an English-speaking constituency. In the district of Lloydminster, the home of the Barr colonists, he got his heaviest majorities. Mr. Champagne is the only French-Canadian representative west of the great lakes. He is a brother of Napoleon Champagne, controller of the city of Ottawa, and is just as strong a Liberal as the controller is Conservative. “Cham,” as he is generally called, has been for seventeen years continuously president of the Liberal Association of Battleford.

## CONTROLLER CHAMPAGNE OF OTTAWA

**T**HE career of Napoleon Champagne, barrister and controller of the city of Ottawa, is an example of what energy with ability and fidelity of purpose can accomplish. Mr. Champagne has won a very prominent place in the capital, not only among his compatriots but with the English-speaking people as well, and his popularity is evidenced by his being returned for seventeen consecutive years to the city council, first as alderman and since to the Board of Control.

Mr. Champagne was born in Ottawa 48 years ago. When a young man he entered the Civil Service. When in 1896 the Conservative party tendered him the unanimous nomination for the Federal House he accepted. Unfortunately for him it was a three-cornered fight and he and his colleague went down to defeat, along with the Conservative Government. Mr. Champagne then began the study of law. He articulated with a Montreal firm and in a few years passed with honours the examination for admission to the Quebec bar. He opened an office in Hull, opposite Ottawa, and immediately began preparations for the Ontario bar. In a year or so he was admitted to that and then opened his law offices in Ottawa where he had retained his residence. In 1900 and 1904 he again contested Ottawa as a Conservative but was unsuccessful. It is a difficult thing to beat the government in the city of Ottawa. He met a similar fate when he tried for the Legislature two years ago for East Ottawa, a section which is hopelessly Liberal.

But while success has not attended Mr. Champagne in his political aspirations he has been very conspicuous in civic politics. He has been returned to the Board of Control each year close to the head of the poll. He is a bachelor; is a natural wit and storyteller and a pleasant speaker at public and social functions. At the bar he has won distinction as a successful pleader. It is a fact that while Controller Champagne is an aggressive Conservative his brother, Albert, who represents Battleford in the House of Commons, is as strongly Liberal.

## DISTURBING QUEBEC

**M**R. HENRI BOURASSA and Mr. F. D. Monk are seriously disturbing Quebec on the Canadian navy question. In spite of the efforts of the French-speaking cabinet ministers and of *La Patrie* and *La Presse*, there is still considerable sentiment in Quebec against any sort of naval activity. This is what Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Monk are trying to work upon. Mr. Bourassa is a first-class agitator. He de-

lights in being against the government, it doesn’t matter what government. Some have called him a professional scold, others a cultured critic. He and his two Nationalist followers kept the Quebec Legislature pretty busy last session. Now Mr. Bourassa owns a baby daily newspaper in Montreal, *Le Devoir*, and is enlarging his sphere of action. The paper is as picturesque as Mr. Bourassa and while it may continue interesting, it cannot become a great organ. Mr. Bourassa is a reactionist and he will in all probability, eventually suffer the fate of his kind.