

Men of To-Day



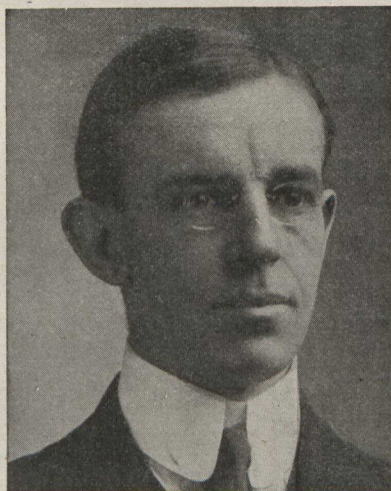
PROF. R. K. GORDON,
Who has Joined the Staff of the University of New Brunswick.

town, Maine, but he was in the nurse's arms when he reached Ottawa, and for all practical purposes he is a real Canadian. Like several other Canadian chieftains he began business life as a telegraph operator, and the careers of Van Horne, Cox, Wood, and Hosmer indicate that telegraph operating develops ability. It was so with Soper. At twenty-eight years of age he went into business for himself and secured from the C. P. R. an order for telegraph instruments to cover the system from the Atlantic to the Pacific. From this time forward the firm of Ahearn and Soper was a leader in the selling of electrical apparatus. To-day Mr. Soper is president of the firm, vice-president of the Ottawa Electric Railway Company, president of the Dunlop Tire Company, director of the Canadian Westinghouse Company, the Imperial Life Assurance Company, the Canadian Locomotive Company, Ottawa Car Company, Ottawa Electric Company, Ottawa Gas Company, and so on.

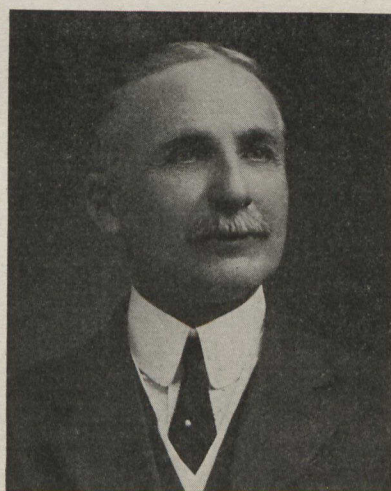
Enough of that. He has another side to his life, in his fondness for art and his ability to write. He knows, as too few rich men know, the value of using intellectual pleasures as a foil for intellectual work. While his wealth has taught him that the successful business man must be systematic and energetic it has never taken possession of all his faculties. He is interested in every phase of domestic and national life—and this is as it should be.

Toronto's Corporation Counsel

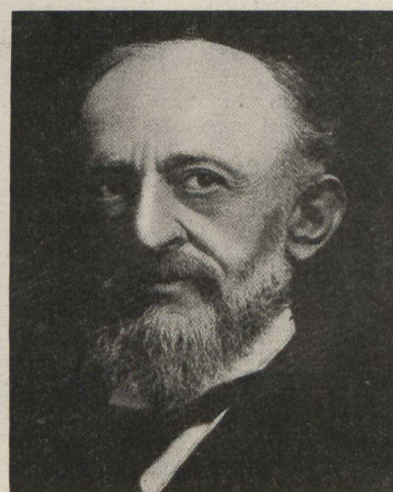
FOR some months Toronto has been discussing the question of a new corporation counsel. It possessed a valuable one in the person of Mr. Harry Drayton, but was robbed by the Dominion Government, which needed a successor to the late Judge Mabey. At first the aldermen decided they wanted a man skilled in studying High Court records and Appeal Reports. They wanted a man who could stand in any court in the British Empire and deliver a learned and technical address. With this in mind they offered the position to one of the famous family of Merediths with a tid-bit of \$15,000 a year attached. He spurned the offer, and when the council sought the explanation they discovered that there were two sides to this question. What they wanted was not a celebrated counsel, but a solicitor counsel, a negotiator, and an administrator. The big counsel could be retained when he was needed, but no big counsel could be bothered with the petty details of an office of this kind. Therefore, Toronto has appointed to this position Mr. George Reginald Geary, who is not a great counsel, but who is a fair solicitor, a good administrator, an excellent negotiator, and a clever politician. He will probably do Toronto's work well.



MR. G. R. GEARY,
Three Times Mayor of Toronto, who becomes its Corporation Counsel.



MR. WARREN Y. SOPER,
An Industrial Leader, with Many Interests Outside of Business.



MR. OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Greatest Figure of the Three Candidates for Governor of New York.

The only "fly in the ointment" is the fact that Mr. Geary was appointed from the Mayor's chair. This principle is bad. No man serving in a city council and presumably representing the interests of his fellow-citizens has any right to accept a public office in the gift of the body to which he belongs. The rule has been violated twice in Toronto, proving that the civic life of that city is somewhat decrepit. Mr. Geary may have been the best man available for the position, but his acceptance of it while holding the position of Mayor of the city is the one doubtful act of a rather remarkable career.

Mayor Geary was born in Strathroy about forty years ago, educated at Sarnia and Upper Canada College, and graduated in law in 1894. He has taken all rungs of the municipal-political ladder. He first saw public office in 1903, getting elected as school trustee. Only seven years it took him to become Mayor. From 1904 to 1907 he was alderman. In 1908 he was beaten for Mayor. But in 1909 he was elected Controller.

For Governor of New York

NEXT to the presidency of the Republic the position of Governor of New York is one of the most important. When Mr. Roosevelt was President he succeeded in having Mr. Justice Hughes elected as Governor. Hughes was a man who ignored the bosses and attempted to govern the State of New York for the benefit of its citizens. But the bosses always come back. When Governor Hughes retired to the Supreme Court Bench Mr. Dix was elected as his successor by the Democratic party. He did not make good and even the bosses threw him over. The new Democratic candidate is Mr. Sulzer, a New York lawyer.

Opposed to Sulzer is Oscar S. Straus, candidate of the Progressive party, and Mr. Hedges, the Republican candidate. Straus is the greatest figure of the three, though he will probably not be elected. He is a Jew, has a good name and an admirable record. He is a diplomat, merchant, philanthropist and ex-Cabinet Minister. If it is true that the Hebrew race hope some day to dominate the governments of the United States, then Mr. Straus may be counted one of the pioneer leaders. His prominence in United States political and social life is an indication that the question of birth or nationality is small in comparison with ability and integrity.

Mr. Straus' candidacy is based entirely upon the latter qualities.

Civil Servant and Historian

COLONEL PENNINGTON MACPHERSON, who is spoken of as a prospective appointee of the Dominion Government to the Civil Service Commission, is the nephew and biographer of Canada's greatest statesman, the late Sir John A. Macdonald. He is a Master of Arts of Queen's University, Kingston, and graduated with high honours, being first in ancient and modern history and second in both classics and mathematics. He also won the two special prizes offered for the best essay upon the Greek dialects and the best translation of Homer. He then studied law in the office of Sir



COL. PENNINGTON MACPHERSON,
Possible Appointee to the Civil Service Commission.