

The Canadian Courier

A National Weekly

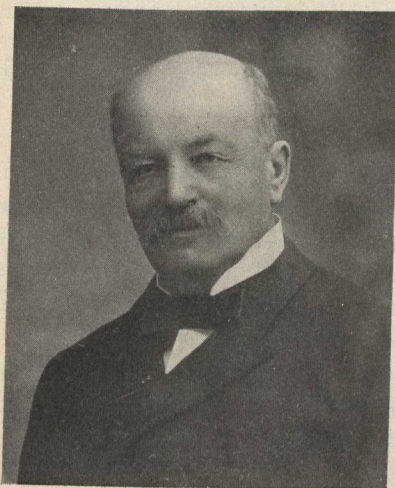
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No. 17

IN THE PUBLIC VIEW



Sir Alexander Lacoste

THE head of the Conservative Executive Committee for the Province of Quebec is one of the strong characters in politics. Sir Alexander Lacoste has somewhat reversed the ordinary process of evolution by proceeding from the Bench to the Forum. He is an ex-Chief Justice of Quebec; and he has brought the weight and judicial dignity of the Bench into politics. At first sight the ex-Chief Justice is not impressive. His forehead is wrinkled up, from the brows to the centre; down, from the front elevation of his skull. The corrugations meet in an apex, leaving two V shapes, full of fine lines of thought, extending to the ears. The whole is overtopped by a shiny bald head. What

hair is left is of iron gray. The eyebrows are half circles in straw colour, now uplifted, again expanded, according to the upward or downward direction of his gaze. The eyes themselves are mild, but fearless, in their gaze. They contain the idea of a brain, both skilled and massive. Massive hardly gives the meaning; ponderous, perhaps, would better convey the impression. The mouth is large, compression of the lips being absent, almost painfully so. But there is a tightening of the huge jaws. Then one sees the full pose of massive head, the decision, the firmness, the capacity for discreet and tactful domination. Whatever else the man's mouth may spell it is neither weakness nor vacillation. The head rests, not ungracefully, on a pair of powerful shoulders. One may, perhaps, wish the neck were longer. The figure is short, thick-set, stocky and not altogether free from corpulency.

When Sir Alexander stands, he bends slightly forward. His hands are in his pockets. He thoughtfully gazes straight ahead. He speaks slowly, convincingly—one knows he is in earnest; and he goes to the heart of the matter. Fact, logic, illumination and judgment follow each other from subject to subject. The business comes to an end. "I will see you to-morrow," says the ex-Chief Justice. He has evolved work for his interviewer and a mission for himself as a result of the meeting.

Sir Alexander advocates purity in elections and practical measures to stamp out campaign corruption. He is healing factional sores; disposing of questions that keep so-called "leaders" apart, or sulking in their tents. His name has fame, and his fame is fair. He is a most valuable asset in party counsels, disarming the criticism of political opponents and teaching the value of cohesion in the ranks of the Opposition of his native province.

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TWO Hamilton gentlemen, Messrs. R. C. and A. B. Mackay, have effected what is said to be the largest steamship consolidation on the lakes outside of the railway steamship companies. The fleet of carriers controlled by this Inland Navigation Company with Mr. A. B. Mackay as manager will include ten large ships and a

number of dock properties. Six steamship companies are involved in the merger. The dock properties are at Hamilton, Montreal and Sault Ste. Marie.

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MR. B. E. WALKER, president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, has aroused some speculative criticism down East by his remarks concerning the Tercentenary at Quebec. Mr. Walker is a member of the National Battlefields Commission appointed by the Canadian Government to look after the major business of this celebration. Down in Halifax the other day Mr. Walker was credited with the statement that the Quebec Tercentenary would not be merely a Canadian but an Imperial celebration; that the centre of the Empire would for the moment be shifted to the St. Lawrence. Mr. Armand Lavergne

brought this up in the House of Commons and asked the Prime Minister what it might mean. The Premier replied that Mr. Walker had no Government authority for any such statement. The probability seems to be that the suggestion credited to Mr. Walker emanated in part at least from Earl Grey, who in a conversation with that gentleman not long ago in Ottawa made the remark that Canada might some day become the effective seat of Empire. Mr. Walker has also given his opinion regarding the loan made by the Government to the banks for the moving of the crops last fall. He justifies the loan on the ground that Canadian crop conditions are such that a large bulk of

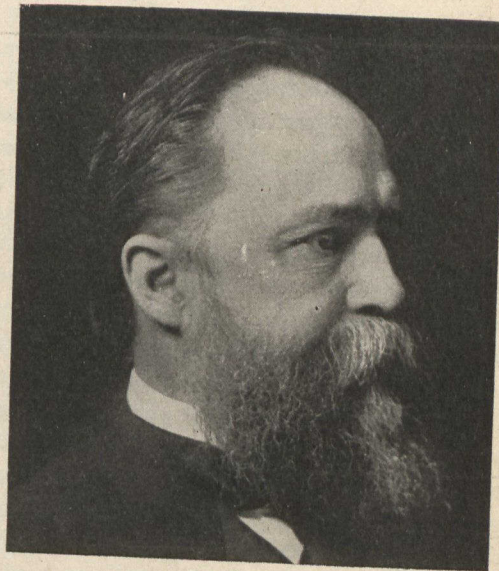
crop money is needed at one time and is not spread over a large part of the year as is the case with countries having a great variety of staple crops maturing at different seasons of the year.

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THE new Chief Justice of New Brunswick—Hon. F. E.

Barker—has been honoured by his countrymen by a banquet in St. John, in recognition of his recent elevation to the Chief Justiceship in succession to Chief Justice Tuck. Judge Barker is one of the most prominent men in his province—prominent by force of character, public attainments and scholarship. He has served a long term in public office and may be set down as one of the modern makers of New Brunswick. He is within a year of the three-score years and ten, but has yet a long career of usefulness ahead of him.

Meanwhile his achievements have been varied and many in number. He has always taken an interest in educational work, and was for many years a member of the Senate of the University of New Brunswick, and also secretary and treasurer, and for a time president of the Associated Alumni of that institution. He was one of the board of governors of the Girls' Church School at Windsor, N.S. When the present school law was passed, he was appointed a member of the Portland school board. He also served a short term as chairman of the Board of School Trustees of the City of St. John.



Mr. Byron E. Walker



The King of Spain at the wheel of his automobile, acknowledging the greetings of some of his subjects.