

## 2. Early Life

Joseph Pope, born in Charlottetown on August 16, 1854, was, by long family background, a Prince Edward Islander, but from the age of twenty-five, devoted his whole long career to the public service of Canada in the federal Government in the national capital, Ottawa.

He was educated at Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown, a non-denominational junior college founded in 1835. From 1872 he was employed for a time in banking in Montreal. In a letter to Sir Robert Borden, dated September 11, 1915, recommending Mr. Gault for a government appointment, he wrote: "Mr. Gault and I were clerks together in the Merchants Bank of Canada in Montreal in the year 1872. I left the bank a few years afterwards, but he remained and rose to be, I think, Assistant General Manager." (1)

Perhaps induced by his uncle, he moved to Ottawa in 1878, and entered the Canadian federal service as a clerk, probably by patronage. Then for a short time he acted as private secretary to his uncle, James Colledge Pope, at that time Minister of Marine and Fisheries. This brought him into touch with other Ministers of the Government, and finally brought him to the notice of the great chieftain, Sir John A. Macdonald, first Prime Minister of Canada.

## 3. Private Secretary to Sir J.A. Macdonald

Sir John had several private secretaries. The

(1) Pope Papers. S.O. 619. (Public Archives).