

pany, and subsequently was surgeon to the troops stationed at Windsor, during the Fenian raids of 1861-64. He served for three years as member of the municipal council, and for the long period of eighteen years he was a member of the Board of Education. He was elected first president of the St. Jean Baptiste Society of Essex in 1864, and has always taken an active interest in its welfare and success. In 1883 he held the office of general president of all the French-Canadian societies in the county, and as such presided at the great convention held under their auspices in Windsor during that year. Politically, Mr. Casgrain is a Conservative, and for many years has taken an active share in political contests, but though often urged to place himself in the field as a candidate for political honours, he was obliged to decline, owing to the pressure of his professional duties. On January 12th, 1887, he was called to the Senate, being the first French-Canadian senator from the Province of Ontario, when he resigned his extensive practice to his son, Dr. H. R. Casgrain, of Windsor. In religion, Hon. Mr. Casgrain is a devoted Roman Catholic, and in 1884, in recognition of services rendered to the Church, he was created by His Holiness Pope Leo XIII., a Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. He has been twice married, first, in 1851, to Charlotte Mary Chase, daughter of Thos. Chase, of Detroit, Mich., formerly of Quebec. She died March 16th, 1886. His second wife is Mary Ann Dougall, eldest daughter of R. P. Street, formerly of Hamilton, Ont., now residing at Highland Park, Ill. He is the father of Hon. Thos. Chase Casgrain, Attorney-General of Quebec, and of C. W. Casgrain, ex-city attorney of Detroit, Mich., and is a brother of the Abbé H. R. Casgrain, and of P. B. Casgrain, ex-M.P. for L'Islet, Quebec.

HON. JOHN ROBSON, M.P.P.,

Victoria, B. C.

THE subject of the present sketch is pre-eminently a self-made man. A native of Perth, Ontario, Mr. Robson arrived in British Columbia early in 1859, attracted by the fame of the gold mines. Like many others unsuccessful in the mines, he accepted readily such employment as came to his hand, heedful only that it should be honest. It was at this time that he earned the reputation (of which he is specially proud), of being the "axeman of British Columbia. But his natural talents and indomitable energy and industry very soon took him from the ranks of the "hewers of wood," and gave him his fitting place among leaders of men and moulders of public opinion. In 1861,

he undertook the publication of the "British Columbian" newspaper, which, under his able management, soon became an acknowledged power in the land. In 1866, he was elected mayor of New Westminster, and the same year he was elected to represent the district of that name in the Legislative Council, and, two years later, re-elected for the same. Removing to Victoria upon the union of the colonies and transfer of the seat of Government, he took editorial charge of the "British Colonist," and represented the district (including the city), of Nanaimo in the Legislature until 1875, when he received an important federal appointment. Returning to active political life in 1882, he was elected at the head of the poll to represent his old constituency (New Westminster) in the Legislature, and, upon the meeting of the new House and overthrow of the Beaven administration, he accepted a seat in the cabinet formed by the Hon. Wm. Smithe. Continuing in the Government subsequently formed by the Hon. A. E. B. Davie, he was, upon the death of that gentleman, called upon to form the cabinet of which he is now the able and popular leader. At the general election in 1890 he was returned at the head of the poll in his old district, and at the same time elected for the district of Cariboo, for personal reasons electing to sit for the latter. While British Columbia was a Crown Colony he took a prominent part in the struggle for popular rights and people's government, and for union with Canada, and the founding of what he claimed would become the "Greater Britain of America." A ready and forcible speaker and writer, he is a bold and uncompromising advocate of temperance and moral reform. He has been for years president of the Y. M. C. A., and takes an active part in the various reform and philanthropic schemes and organizations with which he is identified. In religion, he is a Presbyterian and has been an elder in the church for the last twenty-five years. In politics, he believes in closer trade relations with the mother country, which he holds to be the true basis of Imperial Federation; in fact, holds that in all fiscal matters the Dominion of Canada should be one with the parent empire, having free commercial intercourse, and the parent building up the "Greater Britain of America," by a careful process of transplanting her redundant population and investing her surplus capital, thereby developing the boundless resources of Canada.

[OBT.—Since the above was written, the news has reached us that the Hon. Mr. Robson died in London, England, on the 29th June, 1892. He was in poor health when he left Victoria for London on business connected with