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CHARACTER SKETCH.

HON. PETER WHITE.

LUMBERMAN AND STATESMAN.

"The truest wisdom is a resolute determination."—A Napoleon Maxim.
It is a wide gulf between the view held in the present day of men of commerce and that proclaimed by Cicero in the early centuries, that all artisans are engaged in a degrading profession, or still stronger expressed by Plato and Aristotle before Cicero's time, when they were wont to declaim in a pitiful way against the noble rights of labor. People delight in the present day to do honor to the men who labor in the ranks of commerce and manufacture, though the time is not long gone by when some one spoke in gibing tones of Scotland as a nation of shopkeepers. Out of scores of instances that might be named, it may be remarked that Gladstone, England's G. O. M., was the son of a merchant; Samuel Morley, who, as a British legislator, fought valiantly the cause of the masses, was a great merchant; Joseph Chamberlain, Birmingham's proud son, is a king of commerce. Going further back, it may be noted that Sir Robt. Peel, following in the footsteps of his father, was a printer of calico. Our own country produces numbers of examples on similar lines.

Captains of Industry are not alone leaders in the commercial world, but, the particular training that comes from activity in business, has shown to the people how well fitted are men of business for that other business arena, where are made the laws by which our country is governed. Complaint is sometimes made that parliament and the legislatures are controlled by men of the professions, especially of the legal profession. An analysis, however, of the composition of our governing bodies, will show that a very considerable sprinkling of them are business men, and that not a few of these take a foremost position in the councils of the country.

The lumbering industry has good reason to be proud of the many within its ranks, who have in the past, and to-day, occupy a first position in legislative halls. In the local legislature we have one of the best representatives of the lumber trade, in the person of the Hon. E. H. Bronson, of Ottawa, one of the largest lumbermen in Canada, and a member of the Cabinet of Sir Oliver Mowat. To go outside of Canada for the moment, it is well known that in the state legislatures, as well as in Congress, lumbermen occupy a conspicuous place among the public men of the country to the south of us. One of the most noted of these is the Hon. R. A. Alger, the Michigan millionaire lumberman, who has been more than once spoken of as a likely candidate for the White House.

In the same legislature with Mr. Bronson, which has just now been dissolved, were Mr. W. C. Caldwell, B.A., of North Lanark; E. C. Carpenter, of North Norfolk; James Clancey, of West Kent; Robt. Ferguson, of East Kent; William McCleary, of Welland; Robert Paton, of Centre Simcoe; David Porter, of North Bruce; James Reid, of Addington; E. W. B. Snider, of North Waterloo; A. F. Wood, of North Hastings; and A. Miscampbell, of East Simcoe, all lumbermen.

Among the new men who are seeking parliamentary honors in the forthcoming election for the local legislature are, Mr. R. A. Stark for North Grey, a saw mill operator; Mr. J. I. Flatt, a large lumberman of Hamilton, who is a candidate in North Wentworth, and the list is by no means exhausted here.

Were we to catalogue for the legislatures of Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and British Columbia, we would find a similar condition of affairs. At Ottawa, taking in the Commons and the Senate, a number of the most prominent men in either House are lumbermen.

One of the most conspicuous lumbermen of Canada, the Hon. J. B. Snowball, occupies a seat as senator for New Brunswick, and a recent addition to that body is the Hon. Kennedy F. Burns, another lumber king of the Maritime provinces. In the Lower House the Hon. W. B. Ives has a seat in the Cabinet, as president of the council, a character sketch of this gentleman appearing in the LUMBERMAN of February, 1893. Who does not remember Mr. Alonza Wright, the King of the Gatineau, whose death occurred within the past year, and who was for years a popular member of the Commons? To-day the lumber interests are ably represented by such men as Mr. W. C. Edwards, of Ottawa; Mr. John Charlton; Mr. John Bryson, and others whose names will be easily suggested to our readers.

But of all the names given none are better known in lumber circles, as also in public life, than the Hon. Peter White, Speaker of the House of Commons, and whose portrait we publish on this page. Mr. White does the fullest credit to the large commercial industry,



HON. PETER WHITE.

with which for years he has been actively and extensively identified. His career in the House is equally flattering to the commercial interests generally of the country, showing the high position that may be attained in legislative halls by business men.

Peter White is a son of the late Lieut.-Colonel P. White, a Scottish pioneer, who early in the century located in the eastern section of the province, and 65 years ago founded what is now known as the town of Pembroke. In 1838 the subject of the present sketch was there born, as the fourth son to his parents.

Peter White, Senr., had followed the business of lumbering, and to the manner born, the younger Peter at an early age engaged in the business with his father. Always a careful student of his country's affairs, in 1872 the present Speaker of the House entered the field in North Renfrew as a candidate for parliamentary honors, Sir Francis Hincks having formerly occupied the position. This time he was unsuccessful, but two years later a vacancy occurring, he was elected for North Renfrew. At the general elections in 1876 he was re-elected and he has continuously occupied the position up to the present time. On April 29, 1891, he was the unanimous choice of the Conservative members of the House for Speaker, and aside from party considerations, he was equally acceptable to the Opposition.

The position is one of the most honorable in the gift of the House, and carries with it a salary of \$4,000 a year. More frequently than not it has been held by a member of the legal profession, Mr. White's predecessors in the office being Hon. James Cockburn, Q. C.; Hon. T. W. Anglin; Hon. J. G. Blanchet, M. D.; Hon. G. B. Kirkpatrick, Q. C.; Hon. J. A. Oumet, Q. C. Only two out of these were laymen. The position is one that calls for great endurance, continuous toil, and familiarity with parliamentary rules. That a man whose life had been devoted largely to business affairs, should, with such marked ability, fill the position of First Commoner, is a tribute not alone to the high talents possessed by Mr. White personally, but also to the commercial interests of the country. The reply of the Spartan father, who said to his son when complaining that his sword was too short, "Add a step to it," would seem to have been the motto that has guided Mr. White in his whole conduct of life. Because a layman, and a business man at that, rather than of the academic class, was no reason in Mr. White's mind why he might not fill with all the proficiency necessary, a position that eminent Q. C.'s had occupied before him.

As a member of the House of Commons, for now 27 years, Mr. Speaker has always taken an active, though at no time a very frequent part, in the debates. He has not deemed it necessary to be given to much talking in order to wield a large influence among his associates. Whenever he has spoken, however, he has always caught the ear of the house. In none of his speeches is there any attempt at high flights of eloquence, but he is exceedingly frank, open, clear and concise, without affectation, forcible and argumentative, and as a result is a very persuasive speaker.

Personally, the Hon. Peter White is one of the most popular members of the House of Commons. In his official position, despite the acerbity and bitterness that too often enters into parliamentary life, he is recognized by political friend and foe, if the latter term can really be used in his case, as a model chairman, and just and equitable in all his rulings. In manner he is genial and sociable, making friends wherever he is known. To some extent, doubtless, this fact counts for his popularity in and outside the House, for there can be no doubt that the man of strong social instincts attracts and makes friends where another, even though his abilities may be of the highest order, only repels when lacking in these essentials of human nature.

A CHAIN is no stronger than its weakest link, and a steam boiler may have some one spot weaker than other parts, and in estimating the safe pressure, the strength of this weaker part should be taken into account.

Factors of safety, as they are called by mathematicians, are used as a means of making allowance for unseen or suspected or possible weaknesses. For example, a boiler shell is made of plates the strength of which is known, but the riveted joint is weaker than the plate, and the fit of the rivets in the holes may not be perfect, hence some allowance must be made for unknown imperfections.

TRADE NOTE.

Mr. T. W. Walker, formerly the representative in Toronto of the Rathbun Co., has formed a partnership with Mr. J. Watson, under the firm name of Walker & Watson. Their office is at room 51, Confederation Life Building, Toronto. They will do a wholesale and commission business in lumber, shingles, &c., making a specialty of Canada pine and hardwoods. They have already received a contract from a starch company in Oswego for 2,000,000 feet of basswood.