

The CANADIAN COURIER

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MEN OF TO-DAY

The Long Distance, M.P.

HERE is an M.P. at Ottawa, who, when he takes his seat in the House, is just 4,500 miles distant from his home and constituents. Dr. Alfred Thompson, of Dawson City, represents one of the most unique ridings in the world. He is the Arctic legislator. The man with the iron look of the north in his face is the sole legislative voice from the hush of the ice land in the House of Commons. He sits for that broad, bleak belt at the top of Canada, known as the Yukon Territory. Think of it!—200,000 square miles his kingdom extends. As there are only 10,000 other people scattered over the whole Yukon besides Dr. Thompson, there is but one parliamentary seat—his. He was elected on October 23rd, last year, and reached Ottawa barely in time to be able to eat his Christmas dinner in Eastern Canada.

A peculiar thing about this long distance M.P. is that he was born at the extreme other end of the Dominion—Nine Mile River, Hants County, Nova Scotia, in 1869. He found Nova Scotia quite big enough to hold him till some time in 1898. A graduate of Dalhousie, he was getting along nicely in a white coat as House Surgeon in the Victoria General Hospital, Halifax, when he contracted yellow fever. Early in 1899 the golden lure proved too strong, and he hit the trail for the Yukon. In those days, there were numbers of medical men in Dawson, but they held picks in their hands. Dr. Thompson plied his surgical instruments and medicine. He charged gold camp fees, made money and made friends who swore by him. In 1902 he aspired to the Yukon Council; he got there. In 1904, he moved on to Ottawa as an Independent. One night, in 1908, he declared to the House his intention of joining Mr. Borden and the Conservatives. In 1911, he fulfilled this pledge, and sits to-day among the Premier's following. Dr. Thompson believes the Yukon a permanent heritage, not a mere jumping-off place for gold. He choruses with the sentiments of the late Dr. Dawson: "It will be one day Canada's great reserve."

The Mayor of Montreal.

THEY have been holding the municipal elections in Montreal: much oratorical fireworks, intrigue, and hubbub over the issues involved. The mayoralty campaign was not the least exciting incident in the voting. Two prominent Montrealers absolutely "self-made," Alderman L. A. Lavalee, K.C., habitant's son, lawyer, and leader of the people; Alderman George Marcell, once a printer's devil, now one of the largest realty holders in the city—these two men coveted the first honour in the Metropolis. It was a tense struggle. And the Mayor of Montreal is Mr. L. A. Lavalee.

Mayor Lavalee is a man of long municipal experience. He has been a member of the City Council for twelve years. There is nothing meteorically brilliant about the Mayor. He is just a particularly striking example of the average man; safe enough for ordinary chaps to respect and follow. The Mayor is of the plain people; his father, a habitant at Berthier. Little Louis, Arsene Lavalee, went to the Seminary of Joliette years ago. A thrifty boy, all his youth he pinched himself to get through Laval. He graduated from that university. Then he became a lawyer. In law he plodded, got clients and kept them. Twelve years ago, he entered the Council. There he became known for his stolid sanity. In the City Hall, he has constantly, but moderately, advocated a policy of municipal unity for the Island of Montreal. He wants the suburban districts of the city annexed by the corporation. The Mayor speaks English fluently, and was supported by thousands of the English residents.

Mayor Lavalee is not by any means an orator in either French or English.

But he manages to say what he thinks with a rugged delivery which appeals. During his term Mayor Lavalee will probably have several opportunities of expressing his convictions, for the municipal situation in Montreal just now is rather factitious. Those who have supported Lavalee are convinced that he is not the man to be stamped in a crisis.

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An Honest, Homespun Face.

A FEW weeks ago there was a large convention of New Brunswick Liberals in St. John. Hon. C. W. Robinson reluctantly told the assembly that his pressing private affairs made it desirable that he should retire from the Liberal van. His mantle, he handed to the eloquent young fighter from Westmoreland County. Arthur Bliss Copp, M.P., gathered the folds about himself. He was acclaimed leader amid huzzas.

Mr. Copp has been worthy of a big job for some time. He has been long recognized as among the first lances in opposition to the Government now headed by Premier Flemming. Copp has a way of saying things which "gets to you." On the stump with his coat off, he is a whole battery of oratory. He speaks to the people in the language and wit of the lumbermen, millmen and farmers of the province. He has an honest, homespun face, which never needs a dress rehearsal to wreath its rotundity into a smile. Tall, he looks down at you from his broad shoulders and subtly suggests inherent strength. He moves as if he meant business.

Mr. Copp is young; forty-one. He has lived all his life in New Brunswick. Professionally he is a lawyer; Copp and McCord, Sackville. He is a farmer's son; educated at Mount Allison, and the law schools of Dalhousie and Harvard. Since 1901 he has been a member of the Legislature.

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A Rising Lawyer.

JUST as the year 1911 was petering out, the Ontario Bar Association elected Mr. W. C. Mikel, K.C., its President for 1912. Mr. Mikel is one of the chief citizens of Belleville. He is also a leader of the younger Bar in the province. He was born in Belleville, which is an inspiring place to grow up in. For, from the Bay of Quinte District have not sprung such national leaders as Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir George Kirkpatrick, Sir Alexander Campbell, Sir Gilbert Parker, and Sir Mackenzie Bowell? Mr. Mikel confesses to being a hero-worshipper. Perhaps the example of the above-mentioned Knights spurred him to his successes like many another Belleville boy. Mr. Mikel has been prominent as counsel for the Province of Ontario in various matters, and in municipal work. In 1908, he was president of the Ontario Municipal Association. He has a large practice, which claims most of his time. But when he chucks the routine for an hour, he is a very amiable companion. His chief recreation is politics—for others. He is in demand by the Conservative party as a stump speaker to help out candidates who have not his force and glibness of phrase.

As a stripling, Mr. Mikel went to school at Albert College in Belleville. After graduating here, he left for Toronto to seek a university education. He chose Trinity as his college. In the legal profession Mr. Mikel has steadily been advancing. A corpulent figure, with a broad, good humoured face, he carries the very atmosphere of the law about him. Not long ago, a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate the Deaf and Dumb Institute in Ontario. Mr. Mikel looked after the interests of the Ontario Government. After the Farmers' Bank smash, when the desperate depositors raised a cry for a Royal Commission to probe the affairs of the institution, they called upon Mr. Mikel to lay their claims before the authorities at Ottawa. The honour of serving on commissions is one of the rewards which come to professional men who make their chief business the practice of their professions. The law—that's Mikel's whole life. He is never happier than when he is out in some remote town of the province representing the Crown at the assizes, where he may face witnesses and opposing counsel.



MR. L. A. LAVALEE, K.C.
Montreal
Mayor-Elect of Canada's Biggest City.



MR. W. C. MIKEL, K.C.
Belleville
President Ontario Bar Association.



MR. ARTHUR B. COPP, M.P.P.
Sackville, N.B.
New Leader New Brunswick Liberals.



DR. ALFRED THOMPSON, M.P.
Dawson City
"The Arctic Legislator."