

his manifest desire to hold the scales of justice even, not forgetting his fine social qualities, won for him the approval of both sides of the House. When the shameful story of the boodling in connection with the Public Works Department was brought to light, in 1891, and the Conservative representatives, though acquitting Sir Hector Langevin, the head of that department and the leader of their French contingent, of personal wrongdoing, felt compelled to retire him for his lack of vigilance in guarding the interests placed in his charge, it became necessary to select another to take the place of the leader who had fallen. The choice of the Premier, Sir John Caldwell Abbott, fell upon Hon. Mr. Ouimet, and that gentleman consequently met the House of Commons in the session of 1892, as Minister of Public Works. He had no small contract to fulfil, for the Opposition seemed determined to hold the new minister personally to account even for those acts of his predecessor, which they, as well as he, had supported in previous years. One of the warmest debates of the session was upon the votes for public buildings, asked for by Mr. Ouimet, as head of the department. To his infinite credit, however, the new minister carried out admirably a policy of conciliation and good nature wherever possible, but manifested all the strength of his combative nature, when he felt that he was being imposed upon. Mr. Ouimet has won public confidence in his new position, and has made a host of friends. Even a brief account of Mr. Ouimet's career would be incomplete without the mention of his connection with prominent business corporations. He is a director of the Montreal District Savings Bank, and of the Credit Foncier Franco Canadian. Mr. Ouimet was married on 30th July, 1874, to Theresa, daughter of Alfred La Rocque, of Montreal.

HON. SIR DAVID L. MACPHERSON,
K.C.M.G., P.C.,
Toronto, Ont.

HON. SIR DAVID LEWIS MACPHERSON, K.C.M.G., P.C., is a native of Scotland, and is a fair representative of the noble race from which he sprung. He was born on the 12th of September, 1818. After receiving a sound education in the Inverness Royal Academy, the future privy councillor came to Canada at the age of seventeen. He was blessed with a magnificent physique, and when he attained the full stature of manhood was remarkable in any company for his height, and for the breadth of his shoulders. He was possessed not only of a giant's frame, but also of the strength of will and strength of moral and intellectual fibre which mark a youth out for a great career. Soon after his arrival in Canada, he became em-

ployed in connection with the public works of the country, several of the most important of which were then in progress. While still a young man, he became associated with Mr. (now Sir) Casimir Gzowski, as a member of the contracting firm of Gzowski & Co. This firm was one of the most prominent in connection with the building of the Grand Trunk Railway and other important works. Thus, even had he never been heard of in the advancement of any other cause, the name of Sir David L. Macpherson would be indissolubly connected with the history of Canada in one of its most notable phases—the joining together of the scattered groups of colonists, and the development of the splendid resources of the country. But, even though the success of his firm brought him a fortune at a comparatively early age, his honourable ambition to achieve distinction in the country he had made his own, prevented him from settling back in mere inglorious ease. He devoted a great deal of attention to public affairs, and did good service, especially in the discussion of financial questions, upon which he spoke with authority, and commanded general attention. In 1864 he offered himself as a candidate for the Legislative Council of the old Province of Canada, contesting the division of Saugeen. That was in the days when the Upper Chamber of the Legislature, like the Assembly, was made up of members chosen by the people. Mr. Macpherson was successful in the campaign. From that time until the present he has been continuously in public life, and has occupied some of the most prominent and important positions in the gift of the Crown in the Dominion. At Confederation, in 1867, Hon. Mr. Macpherson was called to the Senate. He took a prominent place in that body, and when he spoke was always listened to with respect. When the first Government of Sir John Macdonald sought the assistance of the leading capitalists of the country to construct the Canadian Pacific Railway, and thus carry out the terms upon which British Columbia entered the union, two bids were put in. One of these was from the Inter-Oceanic Railway Company. This organization was formed mainly through the influence of Hon. Mr. Macpherson, who became its president. Though the tender of the company was not accepted (the contract being given to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, composed of Sir Hugh Allan and associates) there is no doubt that had they been called upon to undertake the work, the men of the Inter-Oceanic Company had not only the capital but also the skill and enterprise to carry the undertaking to a successful issue. In 1868, Mr. Macpherson was one of a board of arbitrators, appointed under the terms of the British North America Act, to adjust the details of the financial terms under