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OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

No. 1.—HON. JOHN ROSE.

In guiding our readers through our portrait gallery of eminent Canadians, it shall be our study to introduce them, from week to week, to those of our public men who, by circumstances, may have become, for the time, the object of more than usual attention. Thus the retirement from public life, and departure from the country, of the late Minister of Finance, make it appropriate that as the curtain falls, at least for the present, on his Canadian career, his portrait should be the first in our gallery to attract observation.

The Hon. John Rose is by birth a Scotsman. He was born in Aberdeenshire, in 1821, and educated at King's College, Aberdeen. After he came to Canada he entered on the study of the law, and was called to the Lower Canada Bar in 1842. Mr. Rose soon won distinction in his profession by his patient devotion to the interests of his clients and the early proof he gave of his great ability as a lawyer. He was created Queen's Counsel in 1848, and during his long career in Montreal has held many offices of honour and responsibility in connection with charitable societies, banks, institutions of learning, &c. In 1857 Mr. Rose was induced to enter Parliament as one of the members for Montreal; when the city was divided into three electoral divisions he continued to sit for Montreal Centre until the Union. At the general election, in 1867, Mr. Rose declined a requisition to contest his old constituency, in deference to an influential minority of the electors who desired a commercial man, one of their own "cloth," to represent the most important commercial constituency in the Dominion. He, therefore, offered himself for the County of Huntingdon, and, though an opponent went to the polls against him, he was returned by a very large majority. On his subsequent acceptance of a seat in the Cabinet he was re-elected

by acclamation. In September last he resigned his seat in the House of Commons, and closed his twelve years of Parliamentary service.

During these twelve years Mr. Rose held many important Ministerial appointments, and was recognised from his first entry into public life as one of the representative

men of the British Lower Canadians. His first Ministerial office was that of Solicitor-General for L. C., which he held from his appointment, in the fall of 1857, up to the month of January, 1859, when he was transferred to the more important department of the Public Works. As Commissioner of Public Works the duty devolved upon

him of providing for the accommodation of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales and suite, during the Prince's visit to Canada in the autumn of 1860. This duty was so well performed that the Prince and the (late) Duke of New Castle, who accompanied him as a member of the Privy Council, were extremely gratified, and testified their appreciation of Mr. Rose's efforts by the many personal attentions with which he was afterwards honoured.

Between the cares and responsibilities of his public duties, and the demands upon his time and attention of a large professional practice in Montreal, Mr. Rose found his health giving way, and in June, 1861, he resigned the Commissionership of Public Works, and retired from the Cabinet. He did not again undertake Ministerial responsibilities until after Confederation; but in 1864 he was appointed by the Imperial Government as Commissioner on behalf of Great Britain under the treaty with the United States for the settlement of the claims which had arisen out of the Oregon Treaty. This Commission has occasionally held sessions at Washington since its appointment, and has, we understand, but lately closed its labours.

On the retirement of the Hon. A. T. Galt from the Government at the beginning of November, 1867, Mr. Rose was appointed a member of the Privy Council and Minister of Finance. He had scarcely a fortnight in which to prepare for the meeting of Parliament; there had been no session of the Legislature for nearly eighteen months; New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were for the first time included in the re-



HON. JOHN ROSE. From a Photograph by Notman.