

He first contested the county of St. Maurice in 1851, in which election he was defeated. He was elected in 1854 as a member of the Canadian Assembly; held that seat until 1863, and was elected by acclamation, in 1867, to the House of Commons. He resigned, in 1868, to accept the office of inspector already mentioned, and was once more elected to the House of Commons in September, 1878. He has ever been a Conservative, under the leadership of Sir George E. Cartier, the great French Canadian statesman, and possessed the confidence and friendship of that celebrated man, from the time of his first acquaintance to his death.

In 1850, Dr. Desaulniers married Miss Flora Josephine Merrill, of Boston, Mass., and has eight children living. One son, Alexander, is a priest at Arthabaska; another, Dionis, is a lawyer in Montreal; one daughter is married; another is a sister of charity, and the younger children are completing their education.

He has a good deal of experience, as is here seen, in legislative bodies. He had many bills under his care, that became laws of the State; was always a hard working man, and is still very attentive to his official duties. He has done and is doing good service to his country, and especially to his native province. He is one of that class of men who are likely to remain in Parliament, or in the public service in some capacity, as long as they will consent so to serve therein. He has ever been very popular in his county and neighboring counties, where he has made many speeches, and performed many acts of liberality, by taking the lead in all public transactions, and by spending money, months and years of his time in the construction of buildings for public and benevolent purposes.

In the year 1875, the Quebec Government sent him to Europe to visit the prisons, asylums and reformatory schools, in England, France, Belgium, Germany and Italy, to study the different systems established in those countries, and watch on the spot the workings of those institutions with the intention of introducing into ours what would be beneficial and convenient in our position. On his return he made a long and elaborate report as the result of his observations which he presented to the Government of Quebec.

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THOMAS WHITE, M.P.,

MONTREAL.

THOMAS WHITE, member of the House of Commons for Cardwell, is a native of the Province of Quebec, and was born in the city of Montreal, on the 7th of August, 1830. His father, Thomas White, came to Canada from Westmeath, Ireland, in 1826, and was a leather merchant in Montreal for many years, dying in 1877, at the age of 81 years. The mother of our subject was Dorothea Smeaton, who died in 1875 in the seventy-eighth year of her age.