

O'Brien was one of the finest things done by any officer in the North-West. It required the highest courage both physical and moral. . . . The Canadian militia should be proud of him." Besides the Fenian Raid and the North-West Rebellion medals, Col. O'Brien held the General Service medal and clasp.

In 1897 he was present, by invitation, as the guest of the British Government, at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, as one of the representatives of the Canadian militia. In 1901 he was appointed Canadian Commissioner at the Glasgow Exhibition.

His entrance into political life was in 1878, when he unsuccessfully contested, in the Conservative interest, the District of Muskoka and Parry Sound, for the House of Commons. In 1882, however, he was elected for the same constituency, for which he continuously sat until 1896, when, owing to his break with his party hereafter alluded to, he necessarily ran as an independent candidate, but being bitterly opposed by the machine politicians there he was defeated by a small majority. From that day he seldom appeared in politics, though his interest in the welfare of his country remained unabated.

One of the best remembered incidents in the Parliamentary history of this country was the resolution asking for the disallowance of the Jesuit Estate Act of the Quebec Legislature. This matter, it may be noted, was first brought to the attention of the public in this JOURNAL, in several articles from the pen of Col. O'Brien. These articles were entitled, "The history and mischief of the Quebec Jesuit Estate Act" and "The Constitutionality of the Quebec Jesuit Estate Act." These may be found, ante vol. 25, at pages 69, 76 and 130, where the subject was fully explained and luminously treated.

The leading figure in the debate in the House of Commons and in the agitation caused thereby throughout the country, was "The man from Shanty Bay," as he was then often called. He moved the famous resolution, so well known in those days, the fight being continued in the House by the eloquence and force of the late D'Alton McCarthy, M.P., and others. Principal Cameron of Knox College, and other prominent citizens who led the Equal Rights movement, supported the action of the "Noble Thirteen," as they were called, who alone in the House dared to stand out against all political parties to oppose a measure which their conscience rejected as unconstitutional and unjust. The *Toronto Globe* thus refers to the incident: