

## The Dead Premier.

The Funeral Cortege Leaves Windsor for London.

The Queen Herself Places a Wreath on the Coffin.

And Sends a Message of Condolence to Lady Thompson.

Remains Will Be Embalmed and Brought to Ottawa.

Will Be Buried in Halifax—Lord and Lady Aberdeen Sympathize—They Leave for Ottawa—Lord Aberdeen to Consult With Mr. Bowell.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Sir John Thompson intended to accept the invitation of her Majesty to dine at the castle and remain there over night. It appears that Sir John died after the first attack, which occurred at 1:30 o'clock, but the improvement was of slight duration, and he suddenly expired.

Sir John Thompson had dined at the institute before he attended the meeting last night, and at that time appeared to be in good health. He was also in good spirits, and joined cordially in the talk that was current. He greeted Lord Brassey, who had recently been in Canada, and his other friends cordially. He also joined the company at coffee after the meeting.

Sir John Thompson had for some time past suffered from fatty degeneration of the heart and was also afflicted with an abdominal malady. He was fully aware of his condition and consulted a London specialist as to his ailments. The physician gave him to understand that he was in no immediate danger, and being thus reassured he afterwards made short visits to France and Italy. He returned to London ten days ago. Sir John Thompson's death occurred at 1:45 p.m. His attack lasted fifteen minutes, he having been stricken at 1:30.

A London dispatch says the consensus of opinion among those best acquainted with Sir John is that he died of heart disease. Nobody recalls hearing him complain of symptoms of apoplexy. Dr. Ellison's opinion is virtually the same. He says that he could not perceive the slightest sign of apoplexy, and feels certain that death was caused by heart disease.

Dr. H. P. Wright, of Ottawa, who was one of the late Premier's physicians, states that Sir John had probably been suffering from kidney trouble all summer, but as there was no special pain or suffering with the trouble, the Premier did not complain until the fall. Disease of kidneys was then discovered. "When the Premier left for Europe," continued Dr. Wright, "there was no special reason to anticipate a fatal termination."

**PREMONITIONS.**  
The following curious editorial paragraph appeared in the Montreal Gazette on the day before Sir John Thompson's sudden death: Sir John Thompson is to dine with the Queen and spend the night under the royal roof. May the fates be gracious unto him, so that he may not pay for the honor by contracting the affection known as a "Windsor cold," which is said to afflict some of the Queen's guests. The story goes that her Majesty is afraid of fire and has old-fashioned notions of what is necessary for comfort, so she does not allow the bedrooms at Windsor to be heated. What this means in the damp, chilly English climate Canadians accustomed to a well-warmed bedroom may try to imagine by taking a walk in the back yard in their night attire when the January thaw is on.

**MONTREAL, Dec. 12.**—Lady Thompson seemed to have felt instinctively yesterday that something was wrong with her husband, and confided in this much to Mrs. Oimmet, wife of the Minister of Public Works. Mrs. Oimmet laughed at her fears, which seem to have been only too well justified.

The entire city is in mourning.

**THE CONSERVATIVE CAMPAIGNERS CALLED IN.**

**LISOWELL, Dec. 12.**—In consequence of the death of the Premier, the Conservative campaign in Western Ontario is at an end. The demonstration to have been held here tonight has been canceled, and the Ministers who were to have taken part in it have left for Ottawa.

**POLITICAL POSSIBILITIES.**  
TORONTO, Dec. 12.—Politicians are already discussing the political consequences. J. D. Edgar, being asked his views, said he thought the consequences to the Government and Conservative party in the Dominion would be very much what the removal of Mr. Meredith to the bench was to the local Conservative party. He did not believe Sir Charles Tupper could be Premier unless his son, Sir C. H. Tupper, retired, which he thought he would not do.

At Ottawa there is already much speculation among the leading Conservatives as to what will be the effect on the party of Sir John Thompson's death. If the choice of the party is confined to the Cabinet, Hon. Mackenzie Bowell is most likely to become Premier. Even to him, however, there will be strong opposition on the ground that his Orange affiliations will alienate the vote of Quebec, already held to be doubtful owing to the Manitoba school question.

Outside of Mr. Bowell the only possible available in the Cabinet are held to be Hon. Mr. Foster, Hon. Mr. Haggart, Hon. Mr. Angers, or Sir Charles Tupper, jun. Mr. Foster is the likeliest of the four, and, indeed, might even prove to be thought more eligible than Mr. Bowell. The Lacbelle bridge would, it is thought, be too embarrassing a matter to Mr. Haggart. Mr. Angers is little known outside of Quebec, and Sir Charles Tupper, jun., is too young to be welcome to the rest of the Cabinet.

But if possible the Conservative leaders will go outside the Cabinet altogether to find Sir John's successor. The first choice will undoubtedly be Sir Charles Tupper, sen., who will be urged to come from London to lead the party. He will be unwilling to do this, but undoubtedly, on expressions used among the Conservatives here, he will be asked to come, and the strongest pressure will be put upon him to do so. Not until he positively and unalterably refuses to do so will the party

turn to make a choice between Mr. Bowell and Mr. Foster.

**COMMENTS OF PUBLIC MEN.**

Hon. J. A. Oimmet said: "It is a very sad day for the country. I am not surprised, however, at his sudden death. He was unable to take the necessary exercise, and no doubt the excitement of the moment caused a sudden attack of apoplexy."

Mr. Oimmet refused to discuss for the present the possible political changes the Premier's death would precipitate.

Hon. Wilfrid Laurier was terribly shocked. "Shocking, shocking!" was all he could say at first. "To be stricken down like that at the very height of his success," He spoke highly of the dead leader, but refused to be interviewed upon the effect his death would have upon the political situation.

**THE QUEEN HEARS THE NEWS.**  
When finally it was decided to tell her Majesty of the death within her own castle of the Premier of her chief colony, the news was broken to her as gently as possible. She was inexpressibly shocked and showed the deepest grief and concern. Her Majesty will at once dispatch a cable message of condolence to Lady Thompson.

**THE QUEEN'S REGRETS.**  
LONDON, Dec. 12.—All reports agree that the Queen is deeply moved by Sir John Thompson's death. She expressed profound regret and sympathy with his widow when the news was announced to her. It is understood also that she will send a personal dispatch of condolence to the late Premier's wife.

**HOW DEATH CAME.**  
Another account says that after leaving the royal presence for the Ministers' luncheon in the castle Sir John again renewed his complaint of the morning that he was feeling unwell. He could not eat anything and asked to be excused from the table. His companions, including Lord Ripon, signified their sorrow at his state of health, and Sir John was led by one of the royal attendants to the waiting room adjoining the Ministers' luncheon room. There Sir John sat down on a couch and leaned forward on his hands. He appeared to be in intense pain, and his agitation also was great. Suddenly the sick man rose partly from his couch—he appeared to be in a darkness—and then fell back in a swoon. Death came with terrible swiftness. The attendants saw the alarm and the Ministers at luncheon caught it up. There was a rush for the waiting room. When the doctor, hastily summoned, had reached the side of the prostrate man life had fled. Sir John Thompson is dead, was the intelligence that went forth from the place of death, causing the utmost surprise, dismay, horror and regret. It was decided to keep the intelligence from her Majesty just then, as the Queen's health is far from good. When the doctor emerged from the temporary death chamber he was not prepared to state the real cause of death, but expressed the opinion that it was due to heart disease, aggravated by recent ill-health, which Sir John had complained of, and by the excitement of the ceremony of the swearing-in.

**SIR JOHN IN PARIS.**  
LONDON, Dec. 12.—It is stated that it was in Paris that Sir John Thompson's health showed the first signs of giving out. He bade his daughter an affectionate farewell there, and proceeded to Rome, saying that though he was ill the trip would do him good. On his return, however, he said that there was no improvement, and expressed a desire to reach Canada as soon as possible.

**CABINET MINISTERS IN COUNCIL.**  
OTTAWA, Dec. 12.—The Ministers now in the city—Messrs. Bowell, Daly, Costigan, Ives and Foster—met in the Privy Council chamber at 3 o'clock and remained in consultation the greater part of the afternoon. The Ministers refuse to be interviewed on the political situation.

**LORD ABERDEEN INTERVIEWED.**  
MONTREAL, Dec. 12.—Soon after the news of the Premier's death had reached this city a press representative called on Lord Aberdeen for an expression of opinion. "Naturally I am terribly shocked at the news," said his Excellency, "not because of the position which the late Sir John Thompson held as Premier, but also because we were personal friends. I expect to hear by cable from Sir Charles Tupper regarding funeral arrangements. Upon receipt of the sad news Lady Aberdeen and myself at once sent to Lady Thompson conveying our heartfelt sympathy." As a result of the calamity their Excellencies have decided to postpone all immediate social arrangements. A flag flying at half mast in front of the vice-regal residence indicates the regret of the distinguished visitor.

**GOOD WORDS FOR THE DEPARTED.**  
The London Daily Graphic says: Canada loses a worthy son and the empire has good cause to share her sorrow. The other London papers speak in a similar strain.

The London Morning Post says: "Sir John Thompson's death will awaken feelings of the deepest sympathy in England and Canada—indeed, throughout the empire. There were few things to which he put his hand that he did not do well."

At a political meeting of the Constitutional Club this evening Howard Vincent, M.P., proposed a resolution of sympathy with Sir John Thompson's family, adding: "The Conservative party and their Canadian brethren express profound sorrow, while they gratefully acknowledge his eminent services to the empire. The resolution was carried unanimously in silence."

**SIR JOHN'S SONS.**  
TORONTO, Dec. 12.—The two sons of Sir John Thompson, who are law students in the city, were prostrated on receipt of the news. They left for Montreal tonight to join their mother, Lady Thompson.

The first announcement of the death of the Premier was received through the United Press, which distanced the Associated Press by half an hour.

**MR. MEREDITH'S NAME SUGGESTED.**  
A Toronto press dispatch says that it was suggested by a prominent member of the Conservative party that Chief Justice Meredith should be invited to leave the bench to take the Premiership. He declared Mr. Meredith was the only man in the party possessing the ability and personal popularity to unite all factions.

**SIR OLIVER MOWAT TO TALK.**  
Sir Oliver Mowat refused to express any opinion as to the political consequences.

**HON. MR. HARTY'S OPINION.**  
Mr. Harty said: "Sir John's death was a very tragic event, happening as it did soon after his recognition by her Majesty. His loss will be felt by the entire country. He leaves no one among his colleagues who can fill his place, and to them the loss is an event of great moment. Their difficulty will be in finding a successor to Sir John Thompson. While there are some able men

in the Cabinet, none yet have shown for the special work required of a Minister of Justice and leader of the House that ability which characterized the dead Premier."

**HON. B. HARCOURT SPEAKS.**  
Hon. Richard Harcourt said that Sir John's death would be a terrible blow to the Conservative party, as they had no man who could worthily fill his position.

**HON. MR. HARTY.**  
Hon. Mr. Harty was shocked when he heard of the Premier's death. He could not see how the Conservative party would get along without the able Sir John Thompson.

**NO INQUEST.**  
The London Morning Post is informed that Dr. Reid gave a certificate of death from syncope; therefore no inquest is likely to be made.

**THE REMAINS.**  
Sir John Thompson's body was conveyed this evening to the west end grand hall, near the state entrance to the castle. A bier has been erected there, and the body will lie on it until removal for burial.

**QUEEN'S LEGISLATIVE ADJOURNMENT.**  
By the death of the Premier the Cabinet is dissolved. The several heads of departments more or less held office till the appointment of his successor. The Governor-General, however, may be relied on to act on their informal advice in the matter of "sending for" somebody able, in their opinion, to form a Government. If that person is now of their number it will be either Mr. Foster or Mr. Bowell, and in that case Mr. Patterson will probably become Minister of Justice, Mr. Bowell of Militia, and Mr. Clarke Wallace will take Mr. Bowell's present department. If the minor portfolio is not awarded to anybody, nobody could be done, and so nobody would have to appeal to the constituency.

**THE MINISTERS GATHERING.**  
OTTAWA, Dec. 13.—All the Ministers of the Cabinet are expected to reach Ottawa tonight, with the exception of Sir Charles Hilbert Tupper, who is on the Pacific coast. Messrs. Haggart and Patterson arrived from the west this morning, having abandoned their political tour. With them was Dr. Montague.

**RADCLIFFE IS READY.**  
To Hang Truskey, But the Gallows Were Not.

WINDSOR, Ont., Dec. 13.—Thomas Radcliffe, public executioner, arrived in Windsor yesterday afternoon and proceeded to Sandwich. He was not long in the jail when the sheriff entered, and the hangman introduced himself. He was taken to one of the windows overlooking the place where the scaffold on which Truskey, the convicted murderer of Constable Lindsey, is to meet his end, will be erected, and he expressed surprise that the gallows had not been put up. The sheriff said they had a scaffold that had been used. Radcliffe went to see it. He returned a few minutes later and upon being asked if it would do replied: "Why, certainly not. It was evidently made in the time of Adam."

A telegram was sent to Sheriff Mowat in Toronto asking that the weight used there be sent on. It was decided to have a gallows like the one used at Woodstock, consisting of two uprights and a cross piece which lifts the unfortunate man off the ground. Radcliffe drew a diagram of the scaffold and it is now being made.

**Truskey Visited by His Brother.**  
WINDSOR, Dec. 12.—Barney Truskey, of Detroit, called at Sandwith jail this morning and had a short interview with his brother, Joseph Truskey, the condemned murderer.

**Caught Him.**  
BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 12.—Joseph Rolow, aged 48, a Canadian, said to be an expert thief, is under arrest, charged with grand larceny. The police say that since last June Rolow has stolen \$500 worth of arper's tools from various persons.

**The Bridge Gave Way.**  
NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Particulars have been received of a terrible accident near Orizaba, Mexico, on Tuesday. The Rio Blanco was on a boom, and the bridge over the stream was crowded with people watching the raging current. The bridge gave way and the people were precipitated into the river. Fifteen men were killed or drowned and 50 were seriously injured.

**Christmas Cheer.**  
The Irish Benevolent Society met last night and appointed committees to arrange for the annual Christmas cheer. Tickets will be distributed among London's deserving poor on Dec. 22, and the cheer will be given out two days later.

**Masonic Presentation.**  
R. Wor. Bro. A. R. Rowat, of Nilsentown, paid an official visit as district deputy grand master to Nilsentown Lodge on Tuesday night, and the members turned out in force to welcome the Grand Lodge officer. After the first degree was accomplished in a masterly manner by the W. M., Wor. Bro. MacDougall, jun., Wor. Bro. MacDougall, sen., was presented with a past master's jewel. When the business was concluded the brethren partook of refreshments and spent an enjoyable hour. Among those present from the city were: Wor. Bros. Harry Stratford, A. Carrothers, T. A. Rowat, James Smith, and Bros. Dr. Balfour, John Graham, A. White, S. Jenkins, Alex. McDonald, George Loith and J. H. Cunningham.

Barton Lodge, A. F. and A. M., Hamilton, will enter upon the 100th year of its existence in March next, having been organized in Barton township in 1795.

Last night's emergency meeting of Tuscan Lodge, No. 195, this city, was an interesting one. At the close of its special business, Wor. Bro. Batzner, the retiring W. M., who is about leaving for Cincinnati, to take an important position, was presented with a beautiful past master's jewel. The engraving was of a distinctively Canadian design, the chief figure being a beaver. The presentation was made by Right Wor. Bro. A. W. Porte and R. Wor. Bro. P. W. D. Broderick. Then Wor. Bro. Paul, on behalf of the lodge, presented Bro. Dr. Weid, who is leaving to take up his residence in British Columbia, with a splendidly bound copy of Funk & Wagnall's new dictionary in two volumes. Both brethren were lauded for their zeal for the craft, and many regrets were expressed at their departure. They each replied in feeling terms, and promised a warm welcome to any of their brethren from London who might visit them in the homes of their adoption. Afterwards in the library the brethren had a pleasant reunion for an hour or so, when toast, song and sentiment followed in rapid succession. After the J. W.'s toast, "Auld Lang Syne" terminated the gathering.

**A STATE FUNERAL.**  
OTTAWA, Dec. 13.—There will be a state funeral at Ottawa and afterwards the remains will be interred in Halifax.

**MONTREAL, Que., Dec. 13.**—Lord and Lady Aberdeen left for Ottawa this morning, the former to see Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, the latter to condole with Lady Thompson.

**LAURIER BREAKS DOWN.**  
MONTREAL, Dec. 13.—Hon. Wilfrid

Laurier was to have inaugurated the Mercier Club with great ceremony last night, but in deference to Sir John Thompson's decease he dispensed with it, and when he came to speak he was so affected that he could not talk politics and he contented himself with passing an eulogium on the departed Premier.

**NOTES.**  
Mr. Laurier has ordered certain portions of the political programme to be canceled. Sir John Thompson's career was the chief topic of conversation at the London political clubs. The expressions of opinion were invariably to the effect that he was one of the ablest Canadian statesmen of the last 30 years.

The Governor-General will leave for Ottawa at once to take action in regard to the political crisis.

Miss Thompson did not intend to return with her father to Canada, and she started for Paris on Tuesday.

In a little over three years four Canadian Premiers have died, and it is curious to reflect that there is no man alive who has held the position.

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"Be merry and of good cheer,  
For Christmas comes but once a year."



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## SENSIBLE CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

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- A Silk Dress
- A Pattern Mantle
- A Winter Shawl
- A Table Cover
- A Pair of Kid Gloves
- An Oriental Rug
- A Waterproof Coat
- A Hand-painted Fan
- A Dozen Handkerchiefs
- A pair of Silk Hose
- A Dozen Table Napkins
- A Black Dress
- A Pair of Curtains
- A Lace Tidy
- A Pair of Blankets,

For Men:

- A Pair of Lined Gloves
- A Suit of Clothes
- A Silk Muffler
- Half a Dozen Socks
- A Silk Handkerchief
- A Dress Shirt
- A Suit of Underwear
- Kid Walking Gloves
- An Umbrella
- An Overcoat to Order
- A Silk Tie.

For Children:

- Illustrated Books
- Christmas Booklets
- A Pair of Stockings
- A Dozen Handkerchiefs
- A Pair of Kid Mitts
- A Pair of Knitted Cuffs
- A Lace Collar
- A Scotch Tam
- A Pair of Overstockings.

# KINGSMILL'S

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