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ROBERT B. WHYTE.

THE subject of this sketch, who has well represented district No. 2 since December, 1893, was born at Perth in 1850. His father, J. G. Whyte, came from Scotland some time prior to that date, and has ever since been closely identified with and deeply interested in the development of the agricultural and industrial interests of the Ottawa Valley. J. G. Whyte has always, like many Scotchmen, been a student and reader. He educated his children principally (Robert entirely) in their own home. His system, while unique, had the effect, at least, of making self-reliant men with a decided leaning towards and a love for the natural sciences.

Our friend began to take an interest in gardening, and also began to make a study of the flora of Ottawa in 1866. This latter work he pursued very perseveringly, and his private herbarium is now one of the most complete in the City of Ottawa, and probably Eastern Ontario. With systematic botany, Mr.

Whyte took up the study of geology and chemistry. It was, therefore, to be expected that he should be a prime mover in the formation of a Field Naturalist Club in Ottawa. The Club was organized in 1879, and is now recognized as one of the leading Natural History Societies of the Continent. Mr. Whyte was one of its first presidents. In 1875 Mr. Whyte purchased his present residence in that portion of Ottawa city known as Sandy Hill, and with an acre of ground at his disposal, seriously laid himself out to satiate his gardening desires. For twenty years afterwards the entire manual work of the garden was done by himself; unfortunately two years ago an accident incapacitated him to a certain extent, and he has been since then unable to do the same amount of work as in former years. We sincerely trust that he will soon be restored to his wonted activity. Mr. Whyte's specialties have been raspberries, gooseberries and currants and plums, of which he has had large collections, although at the same