

# The Canadian Courier

A National Weekly

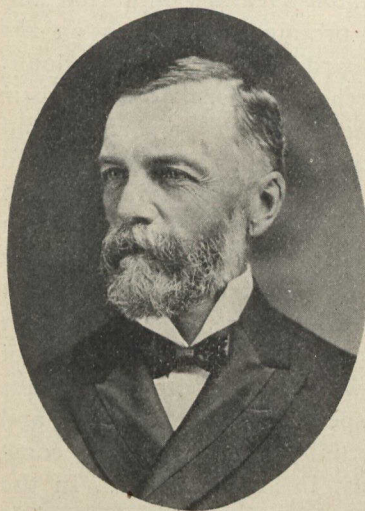
Subscription : \$4.00 a Year.

Vol. III.

Toronto, December 28th, 1907.

No. 4

## IN THE PUBLIC EYE



The late Hon. J. I. Tarte.

MR. TARTE has gone, and Mr. Tarte was a typical Canadian in many ways. A French-Canadian is usually more typical of his country than a descendant of any other race could be. He wanted to be in the public eye a great deal, and Canadians would sooner be talked of than to amass wealth and pass unnoticed. He had faith in the young nation and wanted to do things for the public rather than for himself; this also is somewhat characteristic. He was a prodigious worker and decidedly daring—two features which are more typical of North America than of Europe. Further, he was reckless of his strength and health, and this, alas, is also typical of this continent.

The Conservatives accused the Laurier Government, when Mr. Tarte was a member of it, of being extravagant. The estimates for the year foreshadowed increased expenditures. It was then that Mr. Tarte uttered that historical phrase, "Just wait till you see us next year." To a great extent this also is typical of Canada in the present stage of her development. If our cities and our public undertakings and our private businesses show great expansion this year, we take it to be but our just reward and we exclaim, "Wait until you see us next year."

Mr. Tarte was a great journalist, a greater journalist than a politician. He talked too much and had not quite enough of the solidity which should characterise a great administrator. When he wrote he was at his best. He was illuminating, graceful and forceful. His sentences were short and pregnant. His work was far above the level of high-class mediocrity which is so prevalent in Canadian newspaperdom. He made "La Patrie"; he created it. To-day it is second among the French dailies and ranks high in the list which includes all Canadian journals with an influence. His passing is a journalistic loss.

\* \* \*

Mr. Sifton continues his energetic promotion of the All-Red Line. If he succeeds in nothing else, he is drawing the attention of the people of the Empire to the advantage which Canada holds as the half-way house between Great Britain and the Australian colonies or the growing commercial ports of Asia. He is advertising the country in a most striking manner. Of course, Mr. Sifton is always thorough, painstaking and energetic in pursuing what he undertakes. He is tenacious. His tenacity is being tested this time, since the task he has set himself is enormous. The British Free-Trader hates the word "subsidy." With him it is a mean sort of "protection." To overcome this prejudice and to get British support for an All-Red Line seems an almost impossible task. Perhaps that is why Mr. Sifton has essayed it.

\* \* \*

It must be a cruel blow to Sir Richard Cartwright to have the Toronto "Star" denounce his old age annuity scheme. Sir Richard has not been able to do much recently to keep himself in the public view. His day is almost gone, but like every other man who has been a power in his day, he hesitates to take an obscure corner. His pet scheme, the child of his old age, is denounced by a Liberal newspaper as useless, inadequate, "pottering." Sir Richard deserves better treatment at the hands of a party of which he was long one of the great men. Perhaps the House will be more generous than the press.

\* \* \*

The residents of Victoria who are of Maritime Province origin, met in the Pacific coast city on the night of Friday, December 13th, to listen to an address on "Joseph Howe," by Rev. W. Leslie Clay.

It was the 103rd anniversary of Howe's birthday and it was fitting that it should be celebrated in that portion of Canada which Howe saw only in his imagination, but whose greatness he accurately foretold.

\* \* \*

Mr. Cecil Doutre, superintendent of the Government wireless service, expects that the five British Columbia stations will be in working order by the fifteenth of January.

\* \* \*

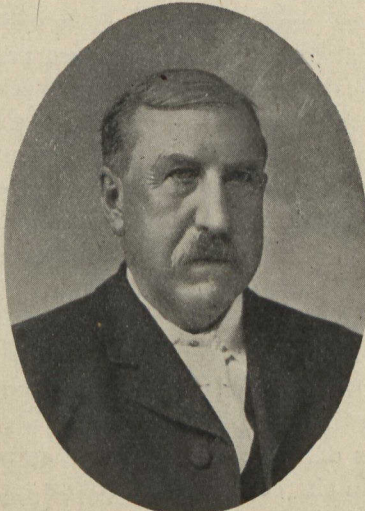
The battle for Centre York has been highly interesting, affording a holiday attraction which has kept local politicians on the qui vive. Hon. William Paterson, whose robust basso is always impressive among Government speakers, closed the Liberal campaign at Mimico with a thunderous burst of such eloquence as the record of the last decade inspired. Hon. G. E. Foster and Mr. R. R. Gamey had spoken in the same hall a few evenings before the appearance of the Minister of Customs and Mr. Paterson devoted much energy to an attempt to turn the tables of figures which these gentlemen had presented. There is nothing to agitate either side in an appeal for popular favour and only an inveterate politician can work up political loyalty in Christmas week. Mr. Archibald Campbell, who has retired to the classic repose of the Senate, was a man of decided local popularity and knew his ground with a thoroughness which few candidates achieve. The name of Wallace was a mighty one in York in the old days but it can hardly perform conjuring feats. Mr. Foster's activity has been remarkable, his speeches being characterised with the incisive vigour and critical keenness which render him one of our most formidable public debaters.

\* \* \*

Mr. M. B. Davis, of Montreal, has been telling the public of the excellent results which will flow from the new Canadian treaty with France. Mr. Davis, though only forty-three years of age, may be said to share with Sir William Macdonald the honour of being termed "The Tobacco King." He is president of the Empire Tobacco Company and the American Tobacco Company, a director of the B. Houde Company which is the largest manufacturer of cut tobacco in Canada, and occupies other important commercial positions. He is also a director of the Union Bank. Mr. Davis has been the architect of his own fortunes and his wealth is of his own creation.

\* \* \*

Mr. George Ham, reputed to be the most popular and best known individual in Canada and prosaically termed advertising representative of the Canadian Pacific Railway, has consented to allow his photograph to be reproduced in the national weekly. He has almost recovered from his long illness and his friends are expressing the hope that he will long be spared to enliven this dull existence with his unfailing good humour and his unending store of recollection and reminiscence. The news that Mr. Ham is almost his own self again will be welcome in every province, for his journalistic and railway acquaintance recognises only national limits.



Mr. George Ham,  
Advertising Representative of C.P.R.



Mr. M. B. Davis,  
President of American Tobacco Co.