

PASSED AWAY.

THE GREAT CHIEF NO MORE.

Sir John Macdonald Dies on Saturday Night

AFTER A PROLONGED BATTLE WITH DEATH.

His End Peaceful, Calm and Painless—He Sank Like a Little Child to Sleep—General Mourning.

Early on Saturday last it became known that the end of Sir John's life was only a matter of a few hours, and the medical men ceased to issue any more bulletins. Anxiety was intense throughout the day. At 9 o'clock Dr. Powell noticed a change in the Premier's condition. The great statesman had lain in a comatose condition for the last 24 hours, with no change of position and an irregular respiration that ran from 50 to 60 per minute. At 9 o'clock the respiration suddenly dropped, became perfectly regular and normal, if anything a little slow, and so remained. Peacefully the great founder of the Dominion slept on, but his barque was floating out from the river of life into that broad sea of eternity whose further shore no mortal has come back to tell of. At 9 o'clock Sir John's breathing became easy and regular. The struggle was ended. At 10.20 Mr. Joseph Pope came out at the gateway. The crowd parted and he emerged from the grounds. "The Premier is dead," he said, and then walked hurriedly across to the C.P.R. telegraph tent, whence a moment later the news was flashed all over the world.

The end came peacefully and painlessly, and quietly. From 9 o'clock until 10.15 the great leader seemed as though enjoying quiet repose. Then he stopped breathing. There was no struggle at the end. Sir John simply ceased to live. There were at the time in the room surrounding the death bed: Lady Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh John Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. A. Macdonald, the Premier's grandson; Mrs. Fitzgibbon, Lady Macdonald's niece; Miss Margorie Stewart, a distant relative of Sir John; Hon. Downey and Mrs. Dewdney; Mr. Joseph Pope, the Premier's private secretary; Mr. Frel White, comptroller of the Mounted Police; Mr. George Sparks, a distant relative; Dr. Powell, the physician in attendance, and Mr. Ben Chilton, for many years Sir John's personal attendant.

The Premier drew his last breath at 10.15. Let no one attempt to pierce further into the privacy of that death stricken chamber or to measure the grief of that noble woman, Sir John's great helpmeet in life, his constant attendant in sickness, his companion to the brink of the grave.

A RETROSPECT.

The father of Sir John A. Macdonald was born in the parish of Dornoch, Sutherlandshire. Having removed to Glasgow, he married Helen Shaw, of Badenoch, Invernesshire. The issue of the union consisted of three sons and two daughters. John Alexander, the second son, was born in George street, Glasgow, on the 11th January, in the year 1815. The two brothers died young—the elder, William, in Glasgow; the younger, James, in Upper Canada. The elder of the sisters Margaret became the wife of Professor Williamson, of Queen's university, Kingston; the younger Louisa, never married. Mr. Hugh Macdonald, first chosen Kingston for his home, but after four years, he moved thence to Adolphustown, on the Bay of Quinte. John was, however, left in Kingston to complete his education in the Royal Grammar school, of which Dr. Wilson, a Fellow of Cambridge university, was at that time head master. Later Mr. George Baxter succeeded to the rectorship, and the bright young Scotch lad, who had already given indications of the bent of his ambition, studied under both these gentlemen. Those who know him in those years of promise have described him as a boy of "a very intelligent and pleasing face, strange, fuzzy-looking hair, that curled in a dark mass, and a striking nose." What those lineaments became in later years when the Kingston High school boy had become one of the first statesmen of his age in either hemisphere there are few persons in Canada who have not opportunity of knowing. The face, figure, gait and manner of the great Premier had long before become (like his name) as familiar as household words to every boy and girl in the Dominion. His personality was as striking a one as ever attracted public interest. The clear-cut features were full of power; the eyes, bright and expressive, betraying under currents of humor and of humor's reflex, pathos. The lips were strangely eloquent even in silence, and were quick with meaning, though what emotion they could reveal was well kept in command. There was a

wondrous individuality in the face, and wondrous also was its owner's faculty for individualizing—a faculty rarely developed in this master and

MANAGER OF MEN.

intellect of the practical statesman, who deals with realities and looks upon his fellowmen as the most essential and inevitable of the facts which he has to marshal, is not unlike that of the general who calculates the effects of collision between antagonistic masses of men. The forces ranged against each other in both cases are human, but the statesman's is the more complex problem. It is not surprising to learn, then, that the youthful John A. Macdonald manifested more than ordinary talent for mathematics, and, when strangers visited the High school was invariably called upon to demonstrate what was to be done and proved. His neat penmanship and well kept copy-books were also the subject of admiration on public examination days. Mathematics may be considered the deed to logic, and the study of law is supposed to demand logical training. It was, at an early stage in his son's scholastic career, determined by Mr. Hugh Macdonald that he should enter the legal profession. In his sixteenth year John A. Macdonald was articled in the office of Mr. George Mackenzie. There, as at school, he applied himself to his duties with exemplary devotion, so as to win from his master the praise of most diligent of students. Being in due time admitted to the Bar, he opened an office in Kingston. He attended closely to his business, and soon gained the respect and confidence of the community.

The time was now approaching when Mr. John A. Macdonald should enlarge sphere of his duties and interests. He had, unmindful of the important changes that had taken place in the political situation of his province. After the recall of Sir Francis Bond Head, whose tenacity and self-confidence were only surpassed by his want of tact, Sir George Arthur bore sway in a sort of second *regne militaire* which closed the half century of oligarchy and discontent inaugurated in 1791. Lord Durham's mission and Report prepared the way for the union and

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Poulet Thomson (Lord Sydenham) was sent out to put the Union constitution into operation. The new legislature was composed of anomalous and conflicting elements. We have so long been accustomed to the presence of members from all the provinces in the House of Commons that we can but faintly realize the state of things that prevailed when the Union act went into force. It was doubtful whether the experiment would succeed at all. Some of the more pessimistic objectors foretold an immediate deadlock. According to Sir Francis Hincks there were five or six parties in the House, with their respective leaders and their lieutenants. On one point, however, all professed to be agreed—that the new parliament was to be based on a larger responsibility to the people of the Premier and his colleagues that either province had as yet had any experience of. As to the kind and degree of that responsibility, and as to its liability to be controlled by the Queen's representative there was considerable difference of opinion, and it was not for some years that the interpretation of the constitution on its present basis was formally and finally reached. Nevertheless before Lord Sydenham's melancholy death the new regime had passed through more than one critical test, so that by the time that Mr. John A. Macdonald had resolved to enter into public life what might be called a *modus vivendi* had been arrived at, which though liable (as during Lord Metcalfe's administration) to be impaired by temporary misunderstandings, was never entirely destroyed. The second general election under the union in 1844 is one of the most memorable party struggles in the annals of Canada. Into its details we cannot enter now. Suffice it to say that among the new personnel that it introduced into Canadian parliamentary life by far the most enduring interest attached to the young Kingston barrister whose previous career has just been faintly outlined. "He gained his election by a sweeping majority over his opponent," Mr. Manahan, and from that memorable day till the equally and sad memorable hour which deprived the Dominion of his services, he was one of Canada's representative men; for many years the supreme

ADMITTER OF HER DESTINIES.

The Government which was then conducting the affairs of United Canada is known in history as the Draper-Viger cabinet—a cabinet the formation of which (and especially M. Viger's share in it) gave rise to considerable controversy. The other members were the Hon. Messrs. James Smith, D. J. Papineau, William Morris, and Dominick (afterwards Sir Dominick) Daly. There were some remarkable men in the assembly of that time, besides those just mentioned. Noteworthy among these were the Hon. (afterwards Sir) L. H. Lafontaine, the Hon. Robert Baldwin, the Hon. (afterwards Sir) Allan Napier McNab, who was Speaker; the Hon. R. B. Sullivan, the Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald, the Hon. P. J. G. Chauveau, the Hon. (afterwards Judge) L. T. Drummond, the Hon. afterwards Lieut.-Governor) Cauchon, and others no less distinguished. A few, such as Mr. (afterwards the Hon. Sir) Francis Hincks, had temporarily disappeared. Among these representatives of the people the young member for Kingston took his place with quiet dignity, without assumption yet without any noticeable lack of confidence. Before the close of the year 1844 he was a member of the Standing Orders committee. He was not fond of airing his opinions, but whenever he spoke he commanded attention. One who was present when he made his first speech writes

that "as he stood up to reply to the contents of the Opposition, he addressed the House with as much ease as if speaking there was nothing new to him. He had an air of confidence and was as truly master of his subject as if he had been Prime Minister. Every eye was upon the young member as he spoke, and as I saw the respectful attention that was paid to him, I felt proud of Kingston." The history of the Liberal-Conservative party begins with the Hon. (afterwards Right Hon. Sir) John Macdonald's assumption of the office of Attorney-General for Canada West on the formation of the condition of 1854. The Governor created by that coalition was the McNab-Morin Ministry—"the

FIRST LIBERAL CONSERVATIVE.

Ministry formed in Canada, the combination in which were fused the staid and respectable sentiment of the province and the liberalized and broadened form of Conservative opinion. With this coalition disappeared from the stage the

Donald's ministerial career began in 1847, only three years after his election to the Legislature. His first portfolio was that of Receiver-General in the Sherwood-Daly Cabinet. He had for colleagues, besides the provincial leaders already designated, the Hon. Messrs. W. Cayley, W. Morris, J. H. Cameron, Wm. Bagley, D. B. Papineau and Peter McGill. It has been remarked that the young statesman did not often claim the attention of the Assembly during those early years (though then, as afterwards, he redeemed by his votes his engagements to his constituents), and that it was not till Canadian Conservatism had been liberalized by the alliance of 1854 that he found himself in a congenial atmosphere—an atmosphere suited to the progressive patriotism, with which it was his pride to have identified the name of Conservative. This view is in accord with that which regards his first ten years of political life as an apprenticeship for the great work which (with

Parliament was sitting at Quebec in the summer of 1864 that the events came to pass which furnished the occasion for the first practical steps towards the solution of the problem. The McDonald-Dorion ministry (itself the result of a sweeping reorganization of the McDonald-Scottie cabinet) had failed to retain the confidence of the country, and having no working majority, had resigned soon after the meeting of Parliament in February, 1864. After Mr. Blair had vainly tried to form a ministry, Sir E. P. Tache undertook the task, with the Hon. John A. Macdonald as leader of the Upper Canada section. The other holders of offices were Messrs. Cartier, Galt, Chapais, McGee, Langevin, Campbell, Buchanan, Foley, Simpson and Cockburn. On the 15th of June, 1864, after routine business had been concluded, the Hon. Mr. Galt, minister of Finance, moved that the Speaker (Mr. Wallbridge) should leave the chair in order that the House might go into committee of supply. The Hon.

Messrs. J. A. Macdonald, G. E. Cartier, E. P. Tache, George Brown, A. T. Galt, A. Campbell, W. Macdougall, T. D. McGee, H. L. Langevin, Mowat, Cockburn and Chapais; New Brunswick by Messrs. Tilley, Johnson, Chandler, Gray, Mitchell, Fisher and Stevens; Nova Scotia by Messrs. Tupper, Kenny, Dickey, Archibald and McQuilly; Prince Edward Island by Messrs. Gray, Palmer, Pope, Coles, A. A. Macdonald, Hawland and Wholan, and Newfoundland by Messrs. Carter and Shea. Many of these names are now familiar to the people, not of the colonies, but of a great portion of the British Empire. "The time, the men, the circumstances," writes the historian of Confederation, the Hon. J. H. Gray, were peculiar. The place of meeting was

ONE OF HISTORIC INTEREST.

Beneath the shadow of Cape Diamond, on the ruins of the old castle of St. Louis, with the broad St. Lawrence stretching away in front, the Plains of Abraham, in sight, and the St. Charles winding its silvery course through scenes replete with the memories of old France, where scarce a century ago the Fleur de Lys and the Cross of St. George had waved in deadly strife, now stood the descendants of those gallant races, the Saxon and the Gaul, hand in hand, with a common country and a common cause. Met with the full sanction of their Sovereign and the Imperial Government, attended by the representatives and ministers of the Crown, sent from the parliaments chosen by the people, they were called upon to lay in peace the foundations of a state that was to take its place beside the Republic which, wrenched from the parent land in strife, had laid the foundations of its greatness with the sword and baptised its power in blood."

THE GOAL IN VIEW.

After seven days of deliberation a plan was agreed upon. The conference was made the occasion of unbounded hospitality on the part of the grand old city and its sisters on the Upper St. Lawrence, the Ottawa and the Lakes. The strife of party was for a time forgotten in the enthusiasm of a great common nationhood and of allegiance to a common principle. The sore question of representation by population would now be settled by the plan of provincial sovereignty for local interests and a basis of old Quebec would furnish the central and determining figure. On the 3rd of February, 1865, the Canadian Legislature met (third session of the eighth Union Parliament) to pass the resolutions adopted at the conference. The debates that followed (which have been published in a quarto volume of over 1,000 pages) embraced every detail of the great scheme and must be diligently studied by those who would understand the circumstances, the antagonisms, the points of agreement, the hopes and the fears, the firmness of conviction and the statesmanlike forbearance of Canada's representatives in the closing years

OF THE UNION REGIME.

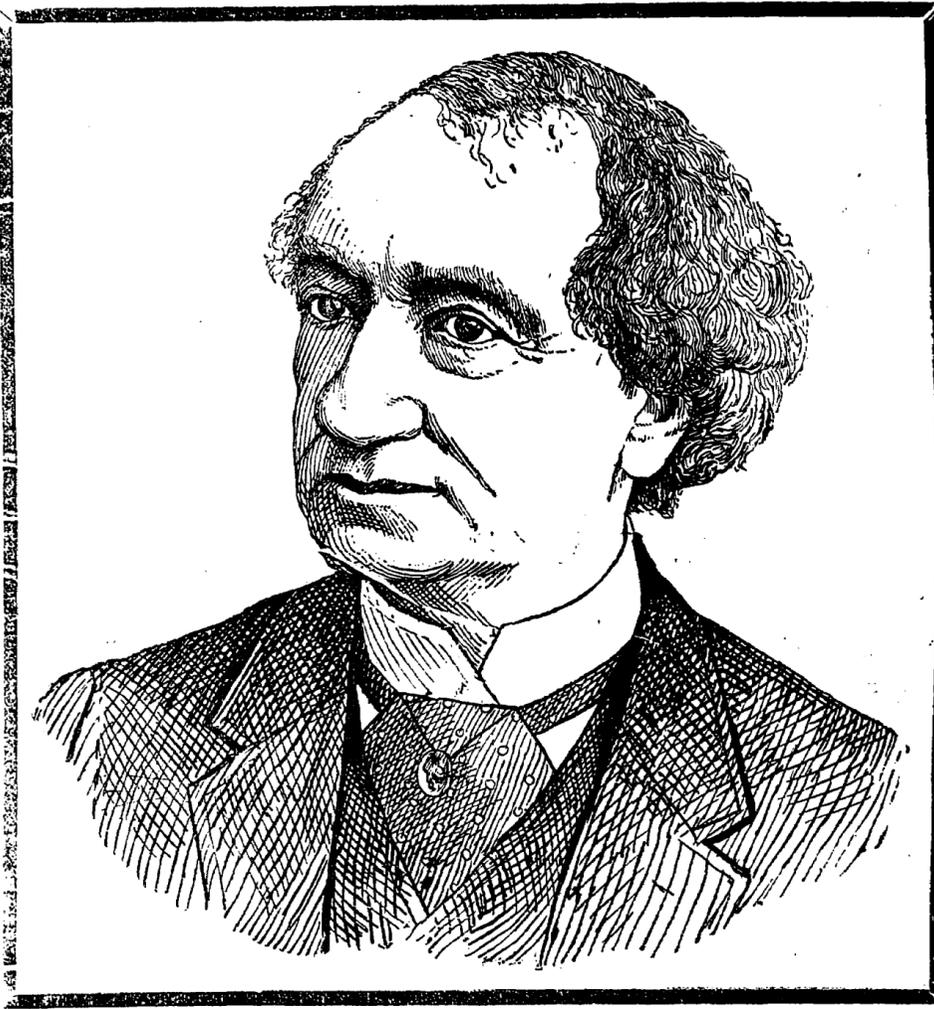
No person can read the patriotic utterances, the skillful arguments in many instances presented with logical clearness and well sustained eloquence, of that historic volume, and conclude that the union of the Canadas was a failure. When one contemplates the chaos of conflict into which it was devised to introduce order and fruitful co-operation, and turns from that spectacle to the deliberations of its representative men in that final parliament, it must be conceded that notwithstanding acknowledged drawbacks the regime which brought the public men of Upper and Lower Canada into partnership in the interests of their common country was a fitting prelude to the grander union of all the provinces in a great Dominion stretching from ocean to ocean.

Before the British North America act went into operation, the leader who had presented the resolutions in the Upper House was removed by death. As the Legislature was to meet in a few days it was essential that his successor should be appointed without delay. The distinction pertained of right to the Hon. John A. Macdonald, but Mr. Brown insisted that the head of the coalition Government should not be a party leader. He suggested the selection of some gentleman of good standing in the Legislative council to which the late Premier had belonged, and the choice fell upon Sir N. F. Belleau. The Attorney-General (West) was still, however, the master mind in the Cabinet, and virtually prime minister. That his supremacy was the cause of Mr. Brown's retirement before the object of the coalition was accomplished can hardly be doubted. The final session of the Parliament of the Union met on the 8th of June, 1867, and resolutions were passed defining the share of the Canadas in the new constitution. In November the Canadian delegates went to England to unite with those of the Lower provinces in formulating and completing the federal scheme. When on the 4th of December, they assembled in Westminster Palace, the Hon. John A. Macdonald was

UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN.

In the highest sense, indeed, he was the head of the delegation, though it comprised men who would have made a name in any community. On the 5th of February, 1867, the scheme in the form of a bill, was introduced into the Imperial Parliament; on the 29th of March it received the Royal assent. On the 22nd of May a royal proclamation was issued giving effect to the British North America Act, which with the supplementary acts, is regarded as the constitution of the Dominion; and on the 1st of July it came into force in the federated provinces.

From that date Sir John A. Macdonald has been (save for the interval covered by the Mackenzie administration) Prime Minister of the Dominion.



historic Reform party, the apostate Reformers, or Grits, only remaining. Strictly speaking, we have no Reformers now; and those who call themselves such are the descendants of the bailed Grits who set up a cry of rage when Liberal and Conservative sank a few imaginary differences, and blended into a party liberal enough to keep abreast of public opinion and conservative enough not to run into excess." The Hon. Robert Baldwin, in a letter to the Hon. Sir Francis Hincks, gave his approval to the coalition. "The Government of the country," he wrote, "must be carried on. It ought to be carried on with vigor. If that can be done in no other way than by mutual concessions and a coalition of parties, they become necessary. * * * I add without reserve that, in my opinion, you appear to have acted in this matter with judgment and discretion in the interest at once of your party and your country. At that time two leading questions awaited settlement—the Clergy Reserves and the Seigneurial Tenure. There were other important issues, but these were paramount in their demand on the attention of statesmen. The Liberal-Conservative Government disposed of both. Others succeeded them—the Separate School question, the question of representation by population. When this last was being agitated, the Hon. John A. Macdonald, in a speech which forecast his later policy, said that the only available remedy for the unsatisfactory state of things complained of was a federation of all the provinces. Ten years intervened between the formation of the Liberal-Conservative coalition and the

aid of trusty and devoted colleagues and supporters) he was able to accomplish for his country. In the McNab-Morin Cabinet (which after construction was known as the McNab-Tache Government) he held the important position of Attorney-General. The succession of M. Tache (afterwards Sir Etienne P. Tache) to M. Morin's place was signalized by the entrance into office

OF A STATESMAN

with whose name that of Sir John Macdonald was long fruitfully associated, Sir George E. Cartier, Bart. The change in the character and mutual attitude of parties brought about by the coalition of 1854 became more pronounced and fixed after M. Cartier's assumption of office in January, 1855. The late Chief Justice Dorion at that time led the Liberal opposition. On the 24th of May, 1855, the Tache-Macdonald Cabinet was formed with Messrs. Macdonald and Cartier as Attorney-Generals for Western and Eastern Canada respectively. On the 26th of November, 1857, the Macdonald-Cartier Ministry was formed, and for four years, interrupted only by the two days' administration of the Brown-Dorion Government, these chosen representatives of two provinces and races continued to control the affairs of the country. The Macdonald-Cartier Government had been defeated on the question of the Capital by a vote of 64 to 50. But Messrs. Brown and Dorion were almost immediately defeated by a direct vote of non-confidence of 71 to 31. The Cartier-Macdonald administration made the first attempt at a practical solution of the question of provincial representation by a federal union, but the mission of Messrs. Cartier, Galt and Rose proved premature. On the 21st May, 1862, M. Cartier resigned on the defeat of his Militia bill. The Liberal-Conservatives had then been in power for nearly eight years. The McDonald-Dorion administration, which

CAME INTO POWER

on the defeat of the Cartier-Macdonald ministry lasted till 1864, when it was succeeded by the Tache-Macdonald Cabinet, which developed into the Tache-Macdonald-Brown coalition and the Confederation period. Though the idea of confederation had been heard of for many years previous it was, however, while the Union

(subsequently Chief Justice Sir) A. A. Dorion at once rose and having stated that a sum of \$100,000 advanced by the province in 1859 to redeem bonds of the city of Montreal, had really been given to the Grand Trunk Railway company without the authority of Parliament, that a financial commission had failed to satisfy enquiry, said that it was a question whether the province should lose the money and on whom, in that case, the responsibility rested and by what steps the money could be recovered. He closed by moving in amendment, that the Speaker do not leave the chair. The Hon. Mr. McDougall second the amendment, which the Government promptly recognized as a resolution of

WANT OF CONFIDENCE.

After a prolonged discussion in the course of which the (then Mr. Macdonald) announced that they would stand or fall together, the vote was taken, 60 to 58 the Ministry being thus in a minority of two. The Hon. J. A. Macdonald then moved the adjournment of the House, and next day he stated that, after the adverse vote, it was advisable to communicate with His Excellency. The Hon. J. S. Macdonald asked for information as to the Government's intentions, but the Hon. George Brown thought that they should have time for deliberation. What followed is well known. Correspondence between the Tache-Macdonald ministry and the leaders of the Opposition led to interviews which resulted in a coalition. Then came the Quebec conference, and out of the conference grew Confederation.

On the 1st of September, 1864, delegates appointed by the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island had met at Charlottetown to discuss the project of a federal union of the Maritime Provinces. At this conference the coalition Government of the Canadas had asked to be represented. The delegates were Messrs. J. A. Macdonald, George Brown, A. T. Galt, T. D. McGee, H. L. Langevin, W. Macdougall and Alexander Campbell. After they had expressed their views—of which Mr. Macdonald was the leading spokesman—the smaller scheme was merged in the larger and a meeting of delegates from all the provinces was fixed to take place at Quebec on the 10th of October following. The Canadas were represented at the Quebec conference by the Hon.

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