

ing unequalled in splendour in the history of that or any other university. He also made a substantial contribution to the finances of Cambridge University, of which he became an honorary graduate.

Donald A. Smith was suddenly involved in politics. Sensitive to the honour of the great trading company of which he was the official head in Canada, when it sold to the Dominion its rights in the territory over which it had long exercised sway, and there was trouble, in 1869, over the delivery of the country to the Canadian Government, he felt called upon to do what in him lay to see that the bargain was fulfilled and the transfer made. Believing that his former relations to the people on the banks of the Red River would dispose them to listen to him, he offered to the Canadian Government to proceed at once to Fort Garry and endeavour to quiet the disturbance which had taken place against the admission of Lieutenant-Governor McDougall into the territory. Accordingly he was appointed by the Governor-General to enquire into and report upon the causes and extent of the disaffection. Armed with this document, he hastened to the scene of trouble, and ultimately succeeded in undermining the influence of Riel over the settlers around Fort Garry, although he undoubtedly put his life in danger before accomplishing this end. His quiet air of self possession, his coolness and ready judgment stood him in good stead, and so, before the Red River expedition, under Colonel Wolseley, reached the scene of hostilities, the leader of the rebellion had left the country.

When, in due time, the Province of Manitoba was constituted, he was urged to allow himself to be nominated for a seat in its first Legislature. The call was one which he felt he could not decline, and he was accordingly elected, as he was also to the Federal Parliament, when Manitoba was assigned a proportion of seats therein. It was not all plain sailing with him, however. Some of the settlers from Ontario and other sections of the east could not at first rid themselves of the suspicion