

“skill, energy and constructive ability, have not been employed here and have gone to a foreign country. I believe, gentlemen, upon my soul, that the legislation of next session will bring back many a young Canadian who has been expatriated from his native land ; I believe that this country will have a new era of prosperity, will rise from its present slough of despond.”

And this is the man who, for thirty-five years has been a leading Spirit in Canadian politics. Neither oratorical powers, administrative ability, or statesmanlike acts have kept him in that position, but a combination of faculties more than ordinary and possessed by few. An opponent—a life-long one—has enumerated them as being: fertility of resource ; a very facile temperament ; a mind always taking counsel with itself ; a talent for effect ; a readiness to use the best means at hand for the accomplishment of the purposes of the moment ; a will unfettered by scruples when an end is to be gained ; a genial manner and a ready wit. Ambitious he has been, but he has displayed no merely sordid selfishness. To-day, after so long a public service, his friends truthfully boast that he is a poor man, and many instances are related of his willingness to forget self and his own pecuniary interests