

SIR LEONARD TILLEY

Samuel Leonard Tilley, son of Thomas N. Tilley, was born on the 8th of May, 1818, at Gagetown, Queen's County, New-Brunswick. He came from a stock which was early identified with the settlement and growth of the province. His great-grand-father, Samuel, was a staunch and uncompromising Loyalist, who, at the close of the American Revolutionary War, left the ties of his own home in Brooklyn, New-York, and settled in New-Brunswick, which becoming a grantee of the city of St-John. At that time the family, which is of Dutch extraction, spelled the name "Tilly," and in that form it often appears in public documents and records of a century ago. The future statesman, at the outset of his career, had not many advantages in his favour. He was educated at the County Grammar School, and, notwithstanding the limitations of his opportunities, his record is most creditable. At the age of twelve years, he left his home and went to St-John in search of employment. This he was not long in finding, for he was a bright and clever lad, with an honest face and an engaging manner. Having a predilection for the drug business, he entered the establishment of the late William O. Smith, Esq., a gentleman of superior intellectual abilities, the Mayor of St-John for several years and a man of mark in the municipal politics of the day. With him he remained four years. Young Tilley became a member of a debating society, where once a week political questions were discussed with freedom and liberality. It is quite probable that Tilley received his first lessons in politics at the debating club, for it included in its membership men who have since become famous in various callings, and there, too, it is likely his future career was shaped. Among the members of that little club was Joseph W. Lawrence, the annalist, of St-John, author of a number of useful monographs relating to the foundation of that city, and president for