

IN THE LIMELIGHT

A Series of Short Sketches of Prominent Canadians.

It is always interesting to know something about the lives of those men who have reached the "top of the heap" without "pull," and invariable, it is found that the "push" necessary for the attainment of such an end is concentrated in the individual. They are referred to as "self-made men," of whom Canada has her fair quota. The subject of this week's sketch is ranked among our "self-made men." He has reached the "top of the heap" through "concentrated push" and the attainment of that end is due solely to the manner in which he has engineered the resources with which he was endowed.

Mr. Charles B. Gordon was born in Montreal, November 22nd, 1868, the son of the late John Gordon, a much respected merchant of the city, and latterly head of the



dry goods commission house now running under the name of John Gordon & Son. "Charlie" Gordon, as he is known among his old associates, attended public and high school in the city, and, while barely in his teens, started work in the warehouse of the dry goods wholesale firm of Messrs. McIntyre & Son. "Charlie" was just the same as any other boy of his age and caused just as much trouble around the warehouse as any boy would be capable of, but during his five years' association with this firm he obtained a pretty thorough knowledge of the dry goods business. Dry goods and Charlie have been fast friends ever since, he making dry goods and dry goods being largely instrumental in the making of him.

On leaving Messrs. McIntyre & Son, Mr. Gordon started in business for himself manufacturing men's shirts. He still recalls the day with a certain amount of pride and satisfaction when he first turned out ten dozen shirts per week; and that business grew until it became the largest shirt manufacturing establishment in the Dominion, turning out many hundred dozen every week.

The Standard Shirt Company was a very large customer of the Dominion Cotton Company which, at that time, was in pretty bad shape financially. About 1904, Mr. Gordon with a number of other capitalists undertook

the reorganization of the Cotton Company. This reorganization was successfully engineered, so much so, in fact, that to-day the Dominion Textile Company, which was then formed, is the largest cotton manufacturing concern on the Continent, operating at full time twelve large cotton mills and practically controlling the cotton manufacturing industry in this country. The power in the man has been clearly shown in the remarkable growth and history of the company. He has gathered around him a body of men that would practically insure the success of any industrial undertaking, with the result that to-day the Dominion Textile Company is one of the strongest and most successful of Canada's industrial concerns.

Besides being president of the Dominion Textile Company, Mr. Gordon is connected, in a more or less degree, with various other large financial and industrial corporations. He is president of the Hillcrest Collieries; vice-president of Penman's Limited, the largest knit goods manufacturing concern in America; vice-president of C. Meredith & Co., Ltd.; a Director of the Bank of Montreal; Director of the Dominion Bridge Co.; Director of the Royal Trust Co.; Director of the Montreal Cotton Co.; Director Ritz-Carlton Hotel and numerous other corporations. He is also a Governor of McGill University and President of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association for the coming year.

Mr. Gordon is a man who meets all on an equal footing. Possessed with a forcible and convincing manner, he commands attention from those with whom he is engaged. He is rarely wrong in sizing up either a man or situation, and to this can be credited a good deal of his success in life. Born and brought up in Montreal, he has a great many associates throughout the city and, invariably, these men speak of "Charlie" Gordon as one of the whitest and best living. That in itself is a sufficient recommendation for a man.

Mr. Gordon is not a great sportsman, having been too busy up to the present making money. And, in connection with his faculty of making things go, it might be remarked that he has always taken a keen delight in motor boating. Perhaps the obstinacy of the gasoline engine had some attraction. He now owns a large steam yacht, magnificently fitted up for comfort and does a lot of cruising and fishing down around the Gulf and along the Eastern coast. This forms his principle means of recreation. He is a member of the Mount Royal Club, the Montreal Hunt Club and the Senneville Golf Club of Montreal.

In 1897, Mr. Gordon married Miss Edith Brooks, of Seaforth, Ontario. He has three bouncing boys, George Blair Gordon, Charles Howard Gordon and John Gordon, and, it is said, that these three charges can take up most of Mr. Gordon's spare time. He has a residence on the western slope of the hill, away from the broil of industrial life, and there he manages to put out of his mind, the many things that command his attention in connection with his industrial pursuits. Mr. Gordon, although only forty-five years of age, is a power in Canadian financial and industrial life.

E. S. BATES.

MOVEMENTS IN FOOD PRICES.

British Board of Trade in report on rents and retail prices in 1912 concludes with following table showing price movement of food prices in countries named at three periods in the last 13 years:

	1900	1905	1912
United Kingdom-London.....	100	103	109
Austria-Vienna.....	100	108	128
Hunary-22 town.....	100	122	137
France-Paris.....	100	97	117
Belgium.....	100	110	128
Germany.....	100	114	128
Holland.....	100	102	117
Norway.....	...	100	111
United States.....	100	113	139

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