

for many years in the service of the Canadian Government when Parliament used to sit by turns at Toronto, Montreal and Kingston. In his day, King Barton was offered a senatorship by Sir John A. Macdonald, but the honour was declined and afterward accepted by the late Hon. Philip VanKoughnet. Personally, Mr. Barton is a man of moderate views, whose aims are the development of the best features of social and national life, with the advancement of physical and mental culture. In society, he is a favourite, and a familiar figure at every social gathering. Though past three score years, Mr. Barton is still one of the most active, as well as most respected, men in the community.

CHARLES A. HESSON,

*St. Catharines, Ont.*

CHARLES ASHTON HESSON, Collector of Inland Revenue at the port of St. Catharines, belongs to a well-known family in Western Ontario, some of its members having been pioneers of that region for upwards of sixty years. In 1830 the Hessons emigrated to Canada from County Antrim, Ireland, and at Kilrae, Londonderry, near the site of the old homestead, a representative of the family still resides at the advanced age of ninety years. On reaching this country the Hesson family first settled at Dundas, where they remained some years, and there the head of the house, John Hesson, died, leaving a widow and seven children, the youngest of whom, Samuel Rollin Hesson, was well known in the Dominion Parliament. When Samuel was about fourteen, the family removed to what was known as the Queen's Bush, a region of almost unbroken forest in the western part of the province. There they took up land about four miles from Stratford, then called Little Thames, with the design of making a home for themselves. In this they finally succeeded despite the hardships which they, in common with other settlers, had then to endure. When Samuel grew up he removed to Stratford, and after remaining there for a time he opened a general store in the village of Sebringville, Perth county, where he also kept the post office. He also was engaged in farming, and acted frequently on the bench as justice of the peace. While at Stratford he married Margaret Polley, and on March 28, 1860, the subject of our sketch was born at Sebringville. Miss Polley was of Welsh descent; her great grandfather, Matthew Polley, who had come from the old country to America about the middle of the last century, was a mill-owner and ship-builder in the region around Norwich and Lebanon, Connecticut, and at the latter place his son, Alpheus Polley, was born in 1745, who,

when the Revolutionary War broke out, remaining loyal to the Crown, with other U. E. loyalists, left his home at the close of the great struggle in 1783, and proceeded to New Brunswick, where Mrs. Hesson's father, John Polley, was born. In 1808 the family removed westward to Upper Canada, and after reaching this province they settled in Toronto, where they remained some years, and during their stay there Margaret Polley was born, the family afterward settling at Simcoe, County Norfolk. The Polleys were also related to the Coltmans, prominent people in Lower Canada many years ago, Margaret's grandfather having married Mrs. Coltman, a daughter of Captain John Young, who fought in the Royal American regiment under General Wolfe in his final campaign. In the War of 1812, Charles Hesson's grandfather (Polley) took part on the side of the British, and was present at the battles of Chrysler's Farm, Lundy's Lane, and other engagements; and again in 1837 he was among the volunteers who turned out to quell the McKenzie rebellion. In 1865, Samuel Hesson moved with his family to Stratford, and there he established a general store. Charles attended the public and high schools, where he received a thorough practical education, and after completing his scholastic course he entered upon the study of law. But to this he only gave his attention for about three years, when he desired to abandon a profession which he saw already overcrowded. Shortly after this he removed to Manitoba, where, for a while, he was in the Hudson Bay Company's service, and for a time had charge of the freighting of Indian and North-West Mounted Police department supplies. He was afterwards engaged in the real estate business in Brandon, but left that western town in 1882 and returned to Stratford. In January of the following year he entered the Inland Revenue department of the government service, an office he still holds, and in which he has proved himself a thoroughly efficient and painstaking public servant. He was stationed successively at Brantford, Woodstock, Ingersoll and Windsor, and finally in December, 1886, he was appointed Deputy Collector at St. Catharines. A year later, owing to the death of his predecessor, the late Mr. Seymour, he was promoted to the Collectorship, a position which he has since filled to the satisfaction both of the department and the public. In politics, Mr. Hesson has always been a Liberal-Conservative, his father, Samuel R. Hesson, having continuously represented North Perth in the House of Commons for a period of thirteen years, namely, from 1878 to 1891. Since accepting a government position Mr. C. A. Hesson has, of course, taken no part in political contests. In religion, he belongs to