

# PROMINENT CANADIANS.—XX.

SKETCHES of the following Prominent Canadians have already appeared in THE WEEK: Hon. Oliver Mowat, Dr. Daniel Wilson, Principal Grant, Sir John A. Macdonald, K.C.B., Louis Honoré Fréchette, LL.D., Sir J. William Dawson, Sir Alexander Campbell, K.C.M.G., Hon. William Stevens Fielding, Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, Sir William Leonard Tilley, C.B., K.C.M.G., Alexander McLachlan, Hon. J. A. Chapleau, Sir Richard Cartwright, K.C.M.G., Sanford Fleming, C.E., LL.D., C.M.G., Hon. H. G. Joly, Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, Sir Wm. Buell Richards, Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, M.P., and Hon. Honoré Mercier, Q.C.

HONOURABLE WILLIAM MACDOUGALL, C.B.

"You had better return to your allegiance," said Sir Francis Bond Head to a beardless youth, immediately after the culmination of the troubles of 1837, first having expressed his surprise that so respectable a looking lad should be found in the company of rebels. "There is no need of my returning to my allegiance, as I have never departed from it," was the characteristic reply that fell from the lips of one who was destined to make his mark on the most important pages of his country's history. The young man was William Macdougall. At that time he was living with his father in the Township of Vaughan, but on the day of the skirmish was visiting a loyalist uncle in the vicinity of Montgomery's, and, as Dent tells us, "when the fighting began his curiosity got the better of his prudence: on the way to the scene he passed a horse saddled and bridled by the roadside, and a few moments after saw a little man rush down a lane, mount the horse and gallop off northward." The little man was William Lyon Mackenzie.

Four or five years afterward Mr. Macdougall came into the city and was articled in the law office of Hon. James Harvey Price, Mr. Price being Commissioner of Crown Lands for the united Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, with Sir Edmund Head as Governor-General and Sir J. B. Robinson, Messrs. Baldwin, Lafontaine, Rolph, Papineau and Hincks prominent in the affairs of the country.

In 1850 Mr. Macdougall published the *North American*, which he bought when it was called the *Provincialist*. He launched a platform of his own, which is interesting to the reader of to-day, inasmuch as almost every plank in it has since been embodied into the constitution and government of the country. It declared in favour of (1) elective institutions, (2) an elective Legislative Council, (3) election of all local officers by the county and town councils, (4) no property qualification for the representatives of the people, (5) extension of the franchise to all householders and housekeepers, (6) vote by ballot, (7) biennial and fixed parliaments, (8) no expenditure of public money without the consent of parliament, (9) simplification of law proceedings, (10) abolition of the Court of Chancery, (11) no pension to be attached to any office, (12) our commerce and intercourse with other nations placed entirely in our own power, leaving in the power of England nothing but the question of peace and war, and that under certain restrictions, (13) our legislature to have power to repeal any Act or charter, imperial or otherwise, affecting Canada only, which the imperial parliament might itself alter or repeal, (14) the clergy reserves to be for educational purposes, and abolition of the rectories.

The Baldwin-Lafontaine Government came in before the clergy reserves were abolished, and it was largely the agitation in connection with this question that drove Baldwin from public life. Mr. Macdougall, who was wielding a rigorous pen, as the pages of the *North American* show, was looked upon as being altogether too radical. Through the influence of his journal he brought Rolph into the Government, Hincks having made overtures to Sandfield Macdonald and Rolph after Baldwin had resigned and Lafontaine had gone on the Bench.

In 1857 he sold out the *North American* and published the *Canadian Agriculturist*, besides practising his profession and looking after his farm. He framed the Act for establishing the Bureau of Agriculture, and after about a year's writing on the *Globe*, entered Parliament as the member for North Oxford. It was largely through the articles from Mr. Macdougall's pen that the fugitive slave, Anderson, pursued on a charge of murdering a slave owner who was trying to capture him, was ensured justice. He dealt with the case from a legal point of view, contending bravely for the rights of fugitive slaves. The case made a stir in England and was treated as an international question. The Tories of that day resented English interference.

When the questions of "rep. by pop.," and Lower Canada dictation were under discussion, Mr. Macdougall took an active part, advocating some joint authority. At the Liberal Convention in 1859 he moved two resolutions, separating the Provinces for local affairs and establishing a central authority for general affairs. These were carried, and it was assumed that George Brown would take them up, but after a few articles had appeared in the *Globe* the old fight began again. Then Sandfield Macdonald was called upon, and Mr. Macdougall entered his Cabinet as Commissioner of Crown Lands; it being said by Sandfield, that he was the best departmental head in his Government. Among Mr. Macdougall's colleagues were Messrs. Foley, McGee, and Dorion. The Separate School bill was carried by this Administration. R. W. Scott had introduced it while the Tories were in power, and the Liberals modified and adopted it.

In 1864 was formed the Taché-Macdonald coalition Government to carry Confederation, Mr. Macdougall representing the Canadian ring of the Liberal party. In 1865, as Provincial Secretary, he went to Washington with reference to matters growing out of war troubles, which it was feared might lead to international complications. Next he went to England with the Commission on Trade. Each Province sent delegates, and Mr. Macdougall was chairman of the delegation. They visited British Guiana and

the West Indies, but through the interference of the British Government, were prevented from carrying out trade arrangements for preferential duties between other countries and the colonies. It was held that the "most favoured nation" clause would be interfered with, and thus the whole expedition resulted in naught.

Mr. Macdougall went to England in 1867 with the delegates to carry out the project of Confederation, of which he was one of the numerous fathers. It was on this occasion that John A. Macdonald, W. P. Howland, and Mr. Macdougall received their titles of Companions of the Bath. In 1869 Mr. Macdougall again visited England on business connected with the purchase of the North-West from the Hudson Bay Company. He and Cartier spent five months there, a change of Government occurring during their presence. They were on the point of leaving for home, as the price asked by the Hudson Bay Company was too high, when Gladstone took office, and through his personal intervention brought the matter to a satisfactory issue, Lord Granville being Colonial Minister. At this time was arranged for the purchase and conveyance of the largest portion of the earth's surface recorded in history. The area was three million square miles, and the price paid £300,000. After the bargain had been made, the two representatives from Canada met the Queen at Windsor and remained over night at the Castle.

In 1869 Mr. Macdougall was designated to take the governorship of the North-West. At this time Sir John Young was Governor-General, Sir John Macdonald, Premier, and Mr. Joseph Howe, Secretary of State. Mr. Macdougall only succeeded in getting across the boundary line for one night, when Lepine and fifteen horsemen escorted him back, and warned him not to return if he did not wish to be shot. It was on this occasion that Mr. Macdougall wrote the scathing attack on the Government, in which he accused Howe of treason. He passed over three hundred miles of blank territory in midwinter, and when he returned to Parliament took an active part in the debates, with the object of acquiring the country which he had imperilled his life to secure possession of.

In 1875 he went to England on a mission regarding the fisheries. He was also authorized by the Government to visit Hamburg, Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Christiania, to arrange conditions in regard to emigration. He was in England when the Pacific Scandal overturned the Government of Sir John.

In 1875 he entered the Ontario Legislature. Three years afterwards he resigned his seat and carried Halton in the Commons, for which he sat until 1882. He contested Algoma with Mr. Dawson on the question of the Ontario boundary, and ran for Prescott in 1887.

It is not generally known that after the general elections of 1878, in which Mr. Macdougall took a prominent part in tariff discussions, Sir John offered him the governorship of British Columbia, and this being declined, a judgeship in Manitoba, which was also declined.

Among the productions of his pen was a series of open letters addressed to Mr. Mowat on constitutional questions, with special reference to Province and Dominion rights. The Campbell case in the Senate and the Mercer case in the Supreme Court were among the prominent matters in connection with which Mr. Macdougall's legal attainments were brought into play.

The phrase "looking to Washington," sometimes thrown at Mr. Macdougall, arose in this way: when the fight over "rep. by pop." was in progress Mr. Cauchon, in answer to a remark made by Mr. Macdougall about looking to England for support, said that if any attempt were made to deprive the French people in Canada of any of their rights they had something to fall back upon, meaning Napoleon. Mr. Macdougall said in reply to this that Napoleon had his hands full, and that if England declined to interfere on behalf of her English subjects they would look elsewhere; "the country must have redress, and if driven to seek help to destroy tyranny would in the last extremity look to Washington." Mr. Macdougall was also the author of the phrase "Clear Grit" as applied in Canadian politics. In 1850, when Lord Elgin was about to visit Toronto after the burning of the parliament buildings, the Orangemen threatened to interfere with the reception. A committee assembled to take steps to secure a large attendance of Liberals to receive the Queen's representative. On the name of one person being mentioned among others to visit the different townships to urge the coming in of the loyal people, Mr. Macdougall dissented, and being asked why he was not a suitable person, said he was not "clear grit." Old Peter Brown asked what that meant, and Mr. Macdougall explained it to him. Next day the *Globe* discountenanced the movement, and in derision dubbed as "Clear Grits" those who were bringing in a crowd of people from the country. The title took, and as that ring of the party grew, Malcolm Cameron, who had made himself prominent in the fight, became rather proud of it, and was called "the Clear Grit." The title fell upon the Radical wing of the Liberal party, and its platform was called the Clear Grit platform. That platform was the *raison d'être* of the Liberal party. Its planks, many of them looked upon as ultra-radical, embraced reforms which have long since been accomplished.

Since Mr. Macdougall's retirement from Parliament he has taken an active part in the discussion of the subject of Commercial Union. He is a director of the G. N. W. Telegraph Co., and practises the higher branches of law at Ottawa. It has been conceded by Liberals that if Mr. Macdougall had remained loyal to the Liberal party he would have become its leader. Undeniably he is one of the ablest men in the public life of the country. Possessed of a keenly logical and analytical mind, able to present in choice and vigorous language the strong points of a case, and detect the weak points in the arguments of his opponent, Mr. Macdougall was a power alike in the House and on the platform. Few men in our public life have as well furnished a mind, or are quicker to discern the currents of public questions. No man in our public life has greater individuality