

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

VOLUME XVIII.
NUMBER 2.

TORONTO, ONT., FEBRUARY, 1897

TERMS, \$1.00 PER YEAR
Single Copies, 10 Cents

MR. JOHN CHARLTON, M. P.

As a lumberman and statesman, we take pleasure in placing before our readers a portrait and biographical sketch of Mr. John Charlton, M. P., of Lynedoch, Ont., the worthy representative for North Norfolk in the House of Commons. Born in humble circumstances, but with abundant persevering qualities, he has gradually risen to a high position of honor and commercial status.

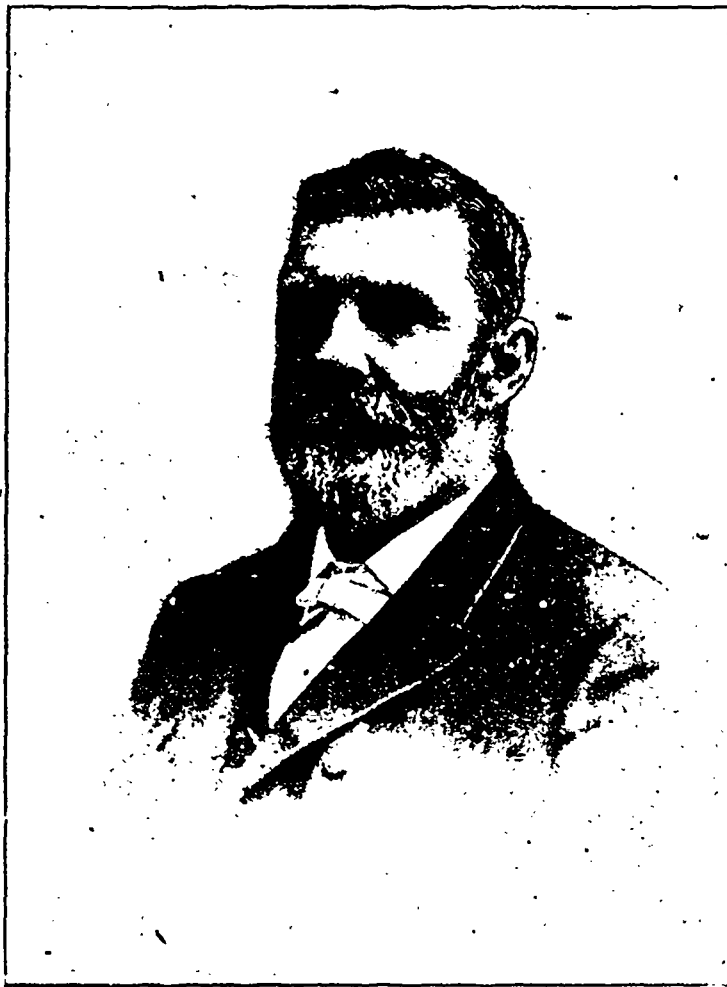
The subject of our sketch was born near Caledonia, Livingston County, New York, on February 3rd, 1829. His father, Adam Charlton, came from Newcastle-on-Tyne to New York in 1824. The Charltons are one of the oldest families in England, and their geographical records in Northumberland date back to the eleventh century. After receiving his education at the Grammar School at Caledonia and Springville Academy, N. Y., Mr. Charlton worked for several years on the farm with his father. At Ellicottville, N. Y., he learned to set type, and spent a portion of his time reading law. In 1846 he made a trip on a lumber raft down the Allegheny and Ohio rivers to Cincinnati, and his later years he has always retained vivid recollections of this five weeks' experience with the rough but warm-hearted raftsmen.

When his father removed to Canada in 1849, Mr. Charlton was 20 years of age. They settled near Ayr, Waterloo County, and four years later, in partnership with Mr. George Gray, he launched out into mercantile life, starting a country store at Wilson Mills, under the style of Gray & Charlton. Their combined capital was about \$1,800, including the cost of the building which they erected. The country being yet sparsely settled, pine timber was abundant, and the firm shortly after starting business engaged

in the timber trade in connection with Smith, Westover & Company, of Tonawanda, and by dint of economy and industry were eminently successful. In the year 1859 Mr. Charlton sold his interest in the store at Wilson Mills and took entire charge of the extensive Canadian timber business of Smith & Westover. Two years later, in conjunction with Mr. James Ramsdell, he bought out the Canadian interest of the above firm, and for four years the firm of Ramsdell & Charlton carried on a successful business. He purchased the interest of his partner in 1865, and conducted business on his own account for several years. Since that time he has been associated with Mr. Alonzo Chesbrough, of Toledo, Ohio, and was at one time manager of the lumber firm of Chesbrough & Charlton. Lately he has

been associated with his brother Thomas, the firm name being J. & T. Charlton. They have extensive interests at Tonawanda and in Michigan, a sash and door factory being a portion of the Tonawanda business. In 1854 he married Miss Ella Gray, of Lynedoch, where he now resides.

His first connection with politics was in 1872, when he accepted the nomination for the House of Commons in North Norfolk and defeated Aquilla Walsh, after a bitter fight. Ever



MR. JOHN CHARLTON, M.P.

since he has continued to represent that constituency, being returned at every election. He is a staunch Liberal, and has always taken an active and laborious interest in the House of Commons. In early life he was somewhat of a Protectionist, but now favors a revenue tariff policy, and is a strong advocate of closer relations between Canada and the United States. A fortnight ago he visited Washington, for the purpose, it is said, of negotiating a new reciprocity treaty with that country.

In religion Mr. Charlton is a Presbyterian. He is of a genial and kindly temperament, but possesses firmness of character and tenacity of purpose. He has a wide knowledge of the resources of Canada, and is recognized as one of the ablest public speakers in the Dominion.

LUMBERMEN BEFORE THE TARIFF COMMISSIONERS.

THREE prominent lumbermen, Mr. J. R. Booth, Hon. E. H. Bronson and Mr. Robert Reford, gave an expression of opinion on tariff matters before the Commissioners at Ottawa. Mr. Bronson said he was not disposed to demand any changes, but thought the removal of the duty on corn would stimulate the production of pork and thus help the lumber trade. To Mr. Davies' reply as to what proportion of home fed pork was used among lumbermen, Mr. Bronson replied that he used American pork almost exclusively, as a heavier pork was required in their business than was generally raised in Canada. Canadian pork he thought just as sweet and good as any other, but the heavier American pork did not waste so much in cooking. He referred to the agitation to impose an export duty on Canadian logs and pulp wood, and said he would bespeak for the lumbermen a hearing before such action was taken.

Mr. Fielding stated that it had been represented to him that Canadian fed pork had greater success in England than American owing to the fact that corn was not used for feeding purposes.

Mr. J. R. Booth also favored the removal of the duty on corn and pork. He thought it in the interest of the great working class that the duty on pork should be reduced and made as cheap as possible. There was no doubt, he said, that the duty had been placed on pork to benefit the farmer, but he was inclined to think that the duty was a greater hindrance to the working classes than a benefit to the farmers. The present duty is \$2 per barrel, and he did not know that Canadian pork was consumed to any greater extent than formerly. He used American pork almost exclusively in his lumber camps for the reason that

he could not generally get Canadian pork in sufficiently large quantities when he required it, and also for the reason that Canadian pork did not keep so well. Mr. Booth stated that it would be only fair if pork were made cheaper for our lumbermen. No trade has ever had more reverses to struggle against than the lumbermen, he said, "and very few men have spent their life time in it and not died poor."

Mr. Robert Reford, of Montreal, asked an imposition of a duty on saw logs. He contended that at present the Americans were getting Canadian timber for practically nothing, while the Canadian forests were being rapidly depleted, with nothing to show in return. He had reason to believe that Canadian lumber was sold in Ottawa to Americans at \$4 per thousand, or less