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Men of the Day

Ottawa's Latest Knight

ONE more name has recently been added to the list of Canadian Knighthoods. It is that of Henry Kelly Egan. Sir Henry was born in Aylmer, Quebec, on January 15th, 1848, and spent his boyhood in that vicinity. He was educated at the Montreal High School, and taught still further the importance of Canadian interests, for his father, during the years he spent in the Canadian Assembly, was the instigator of the Georgian Bay Canal scheme.

Not unnaturally, Sir Henry early turned to lumbering interests. His father was one of the pioneer lumbermen of the country. With Messrs. Robinson, Thistle and Blackburn, Sir Henry purchased the Hawkesbury Lumber Mills, merging in the Hamilton Bros. Company in 1888. He has been allied for many years with financial concerns, and is now a director of Bank of Ottawa, Ottawa Stock Exchange, British Canadian Bank Note Company, and the Canadian Railway Accident Company.

He takes a keen interest in charitable work, being on the board of several hospitals and kindred institutions. He is a familiar figure at the various clubs—sporting and social. Politically he is a Conservative.

Edmonton's Public Spirit

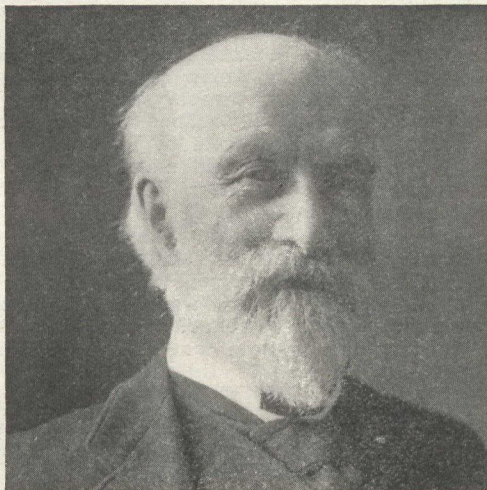
AN evidence of the public spirit that has characterized the development of Edmonton is the enterprise which Mayor William T. MacNamara and William T. Magrath, president of the Ad. Club have just started. It is a project to secure cheap fuel and power for Edmonton. A company is to be formed for investigating the gas field round Vegreville, sixty miles from Edmonton. Mr. MacNamara and Mr. Magrath have each subscribed \$5,000 to get the scheme going. The plan is to bore wells in the field recommended by the gas experts recently employed by the city to report on gas prospects round Edmonton. When the investigation shall have been carried far enough to determine the value of the field to the city of Edmonton, the wells will be turned over to the city, if the civic administration elects to take them, at cost. Of course, if the wells do not prove to be as promising as is now thought, those who subscribe to the stock will lose the money they have put up.

The proposition has been received with great enthusiasm by the five hundred members of the Edmonton Ad. Club present at the meeting, and a committee was appointed to get the total amount of stock subscribed within the day. The committee was successful in doing this and work will be started at once. Three months is allowed to determine the value of the Vegreville gas field for Edmonton uses.

The effect of the movement will be to give Edmonton cheap natural gas for fuel and power purposes, if the field to be exploited proves to be up to the expectations of the experts. This expectation appears to be well founded since Vegreville already has a gas well with a pressure of 350 pounds to the square inch. This well is used for lighting the streets of Vegreville. It is expected that the flow and pressure of the Vegreville well will be greatly increased by boring wells farther south, a territory estimated by the gas experts to be a part of the great Bow Island gas belt, in which a number of wells are located, one with a daily flow of 30,000,000 feet and a pres-

sure of 650 pounds. Natural gas, added to the vast coal beds that underlie Edmonton, will be a great help to the Alberta capital in making its bid for greater industrial development.

This movement is to be commended. The men who are behind it are actuated by the public spirit. If their proposition comes out all right, they don't make anything. If it doesn't, they stand to lose a



SIR SANDFORD FLEMING,
Empire Maker, who at 87 is as keen an Imperialist
as ever.

big sum between them. The motive is altruistic. It is the best bulwark of a city's prosperity.

Another Grand Old Man

THE passing of Lord Strathcona, Canada's greatest citizen, prompts the remembrance that we have another grand old man still with us, and still doing great work, in the person of Sir Sandford Fleming. Sir Sandford was eighty-seven years old last month. He is a Scotchman—one more of the sturdy north Britishers who surely must be accorded first place as makers of Empire. Earl Grey once said: "Sir Sandford Fleming is one of the most public-spirited Britons that ever lived." His life has been one long battle with the forces of nature. And it has also been a series of conquests. In the January 31st issue of this paper there is a picture of Lord Strathcona driving the last spike of the C. P. R. main line at Craigellachie, B.C., in November, 1885. In that picture there are two other great empire-makers, Sir William Van Horne and Sir Sandford Fleming. Probably there

is no man living who has done so much to develop the West. At one time the Federal Government debated the point, "Is the Prairie West worth anything?" They decided that it was and appointed Sandford Fleming to ascertain the possibility of finding a passage through the Rocky Mountains. This was in 1870. His was the task of conducting a survey for the first link in a railway that would extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific, within British Territory. Of this railway—the Intercolonial—he was chief engineer during its construction. In 1872, he headed an expedition which proceeded through the Rocky Mountains by the Yellowhead Pass. In 1880, the practicability of the Pacific Railway was established. Sandford Fleming established it after walking the entire distance from Winnipeg to Vancouver. The old saw that East was East and West was West, and "never the twain shall meet" was disproved by Sandford Fleming. Largely through his agency they have met, and are one. British Columbia was saved to Canada. A hitherto unexplored country that should be a new field for the endeavours of those from the older world was opened up.

Sir Sandford Fleming it was who laid out for the Canadian Pacific the route by the Yellowhead, which has since been adapted for the C. N. R. Transcontinental. It was he, too, who was the first man to prove the final C. P. R. route—through the Kicking Horse and Eagle and Rogers passes—to be practicable.

And his name must ever be connected with the twenty-four-hour-day system of reckoning. He has been called "The 24 o'clock man."

Another subject to which he devoted his time and genius was the Canadian Pacific Cable. He was the man who first conceived and made possible the girdling of the Empire by a chain of state cables, of which the Canadian Pacific is the first section. Thus all parts of the Empire are in telegraphic connection without passing over foreign soil. Great Britain, India, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and Canada are in unbroken touch, and it is largely through the efforts of Sandford Fleming that this is so.

His books on engineering and imperial subjects are as diverse as they are famous. His greatest claim to undying remembrance is his Imperialism. First, last and all the time he stands for the greatest and highest good of Canada and the Empire.

Withal he is quiet and modest. He is a cheery optimist, and despite his busy life he has found time to do much good, socially. It has been said of him that "he fares through life with a bright prospect constantly before him." So it will always be with him.

Another Journalist Shelved

MAJOR C. FREDERICK HAMILTON has left the field of active newspaperdom. He has a commission now as Assistant Comptroller of the Royal North-West Mounted Police. The Govern-

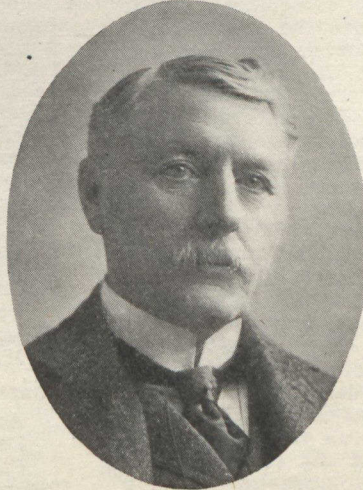
ment and he are both to be congratulated on the appointment. "C. F. H." is well known as a journalist who made one particular field his specialty. He was with the "Globe," and devoted his time to becoming an authority on military matters and military men. He is generally recognized as having about as good a knowledge of this subject as any man in Canada. Naturally, therefore, when the "Globe" decided to send a correspondent to the war in South Africa, Hamilton was chosen. He made a "scoop" by sending to his paper the first news to be had in Canada of the battle of Paardeberg.



W. J. MAGRATH,
President of the Edmonton Ad. Club,
which is the biggest in Canada.



W. F. MACNAMARA,
Mayor of Edmonton, and leader in the
movement for natural gas.



SIR HENRY KELLY EGAN,
Who received his Knighthood in the New
Year Honours List.