

Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal

A Short Life History of This Grand Old Man Who is Now in Western Canada.

Noble in bearing, courteous and kind, and richly gifted with an inner grace that animates the features of your face, where life's unerring record well is lined, a fitting temple for a mighty mind. First of an old indomitable race, whose sons have reached the world's remotest place, Scots though at home where e'er heaven's wind. These spacious halls we thoroughly behold, whose massive portals wear your honored name. A worthy monument to one whose days, make glad by gracious deeds unweighed by gold, so grateful hearts shall ever speak your praise. While these strong towers reflect the sun's bright flame.

These lines penned by Charlotte Eaton are a fitting tribute to Lord Strathcona. As high commissioner of the Dominion, a post of ever-growing honor and responsibility, he is the man who must uphold Canada's interests in Britain.

Canadians visiting in England call at the high commissioner's office, partly as a matter of duty, but chiefly as one of pleasure, for there they will find a piece of Canada, the Canada they know with a Canadian welcome. And the presiding genius at that office, the man who has made it the mecca of Canadian globe trotters is Lord Strathcona, one time Donald Alexander Smith, who earned a bare sustenance by his own unaided effort. And the reason is not hard to seek. His patent of nobility is based on work, perseverance and native ability. The second of these he has chosen for his motto. He is one of nature's noblemen in whom the great mother of all has centred many of her choicest gifts, and that the graces have not been forgotten is shown by the same kindly gentleman whose charities have added materially to the advancement of education in Canada.

Should you have occasion to visit the office of the high commissioner, and should your business be of such a nature, as to necessitate a personal interview with Lord Strathcona the impressions left with you will be many and varied. Though 89 years of age on Aug. 5 last, Lord Strathcona has lost none of the powers which placed him in the position of Canada's leading financier many years ago. His is a friendly manner and in conversation he will draw his chair close alongside and follow each sentence closely. It is not difficult to see that it is the mind that has placed the man where he is today, a mind that can grasp details and by force of conviction carry through any course of action decided upon. The early life led by Donald Smith demanded an iron will. Men of equal strength but with lesser mental qualifications and courage have failed under the test, while he passed through it in triumph, and his adopted country honored him accordingly for his works, while his native country 'was equally generous. He risked his all and the all of many of his friends and relatives on one throw, but he knew that he was right, and today Canada has in consequence the development of its west, which depended upon his success or failure. Governments have claimed the credit for the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but it was Donald Smith more than anyone else who thought out the great enterprise and put it through.

And the secret of his success is "perseverance." In an interview he explained why he chose that single word for his motto. He says: "Every man should prepare himself for his work. Prepare it a word I like. I wish every boy could understand the necessity of preparing himself for his position. Mr. Carnegie, when he was a common blacksmith, prepared himself; he worked hard; he did his best. Today he is a very rich man. I have no friends I think more of than Mr. Carnegie.

"So it was with Mr. Hill. When he was a mud clerk on the levee in St. Paul, working for fifty cents a day, he prepared himself for his work. Then, too, he saved his money. His old clothes didn't make him less a gentleman. Mr. Hill told me his only luxury in those days was books. He was very fond of studying scientific subjects, and money others would spend in clothes he spent in buying books. I never met a man who possessed a greater fund of knowledge than Mr. Hill. He is a power in the financial world today. I should like to tell every young man starting out in life the necessity of preparing himself for his work.

Then he must be honest and save his money. The great trouble with the people today is they all want to be rich without first having been poor. I was very poor when I began life as a boy, very poor."

He was asked: "Isn't it happier amid such surroundings as yours?" "No," he replied, "great wealth cannot bring happiness. Real happiness

must come from a contented mind and hard work. Great wealth is a burden for one has to think very hard how to make best use of his money. I would not advise any man to strive after great wealth. I would rather be a very good man than a very rich man."

The story of Lord Strathcona reads like a romance. In 1838, when Van Buren was president of the United States, when Victoria of England had held the throne but a year, he came into the life of Canada. At that time he was 18 years of age. He was born in Scotland, of Highland parents and he came to the new country to seek the fortune his own land had denied him.

For nearly thirty years he labored in the services of the Hudson's Bay Company. After ten years of it in the Labrador wilderness, the records find him promoted from the trader's vocation to be an agent of the company on the bleak coast of Labrador. Little of hope there was in that. It is the most dreadful place on the continent, this forbidden land of Labrador. Black, iron-bound, storm-beaten through the spring and summer and autumn; white frost-bound, wind-swept through the long months of winter—there is no single thing of beauty, gentleness or charity in all the life of it.

Soon he gained the reputation of a trader who, no matter how bad the season, might always be relied upon to show a balance on the right side of the ledger; and he advanced steadily from one post to another, until in 1868, the greatest prize, save one, the company could give him, fell to his lot, and he was appointed chief executive officer in Canada, becoming a governor general of the company in 1869. That thirty years in the wilds did not deteriorate the fur trader's innate refinement and courtesy of manner may be gathered from the following extract from a letter written in '69 by a newly joined officer of the company: "I called today to pay my respects to Donald A. Smith, our great mogul of the service, and was surprised to find him so affable and unassuming, with no trace of the ruggedness you would associate with the wilderness. You'd think he had spent all his life at the court of St. James instead of Labrador, and I came away feeling that I was going to be made chief factor right away, instead of having to wait about fifteen years more for that promotion."

Nearly fifty years of age, already possessed of an ample fortune, Donald Smith after thirty years of unrelenting toil, might well have looked forward to spending the rest of his days at ease. But in reality his career was just beginning. For the successful man of business was ripe for development into the business statesman, such as Cecil Rhodes was.

It was as a special government commissioner to enquire into the causes of the Red River rebellion, and if possible to adjust the difficulties, that he first came into prominence in Canadian public life. The ability and prudence manifested in the discharge of this mission were so effective in the settlement of these troubles that the opinion was widespread in the west that the offices of Donald A. Smith, if given scope at an earlier date would have prevented the uprising.

Hitherto known to a comparatively limited sphere, the Hudson Bay company officer, while retaining his position as chief commissioner, now in 1870 stepped into the arena of politics at a most important point in the history of the west. In the following year he represented Winnipeg in the first legislature of the new province, and only the men of western Canada can realize all the west has since owed to this man. He was fifty years old then and brought the cumulative experience and strength of many years to his new duties.

The powers of statesmanship, which have won the eulogiums of able men on both sides of the ocean, were at once apparent to him, training in the guidance of men and choice of policy having been already received in the services of the company. His advent into federal politics marked a fuller realization in legislative circles of the possibilities of the vast region lying between the "Grand Portage" and the Pacific, and of Canada's duty to strengthen her position as an integral Dominion.

Provision for a transcontinental railway, which he perceived to be a necessity, was urged upon parliament by Mr. Smith, as well as Sir John Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper. Here the tenacity and self-reliant courage that had marked his career from youth was again apparent. Opposition to a railway scheme that struck many as disproportionate, was tremendous. But Donald Smith knew it was essential to the west, and worked as such a man can work. The railway was built, a bond of steel that has helped to make the Dominion one of national importance.

domitable pluck and energy and determination, financially and in every other respect, of Sir Donald Smith." So, with the foresight of the really great man, Mr. Smith had believed in the young country at a period when it was still unaware of its own resources and timorous of each forward step.

In 1886 came Mr. Smith's first imperial honor. He was created a Knight of St. Michael and St. George, and ten years later he received a Knight Grand Cross in the same order. In 1897 he was raised to the peerage as Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal. During these years he attained so many positions of financial trust that it would take an index to keep track on them. During the closing months of the Conservative administration, early in 1896 he was appointed Canadian High Commissioner in London. The appointment is a political one, but when Sir Wilfrid Laurier came into power shortly afterwards in the same year, Lord Strathcona still retained office as if nothing had happened. He has since held this office.

Lord Strathcona will long be remembered as a philanthropist. Of his private benefactions only one man could tell, and that is himself. As his great public endowments have had so far as he could make them, a private character there can be no record of those relatively small gifts whereby he has gladdened many hearts and lightened much suffering. These are subjects upon which not even his intimate friends can speak to Lord Strathcona; he will put them aside, courteously always and with that odd mixture of urbanity and firmness that is the characteristic of his manner.

But there are several of his gifts that cannot easily be concealed and will be remembrances of him so long as the city of Montreal shall remain upon her foundations. Jointly with Lord Mount Stephen he set apart one million dollars to erect a free hospital in Montreal to commemorate the jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1867. Later when the building had been erected on the side of the mountain they gave equally in the sum of \$200,000 to endow the institution. There can be no finer site for an hospital in the world. It overlooks the whole city and the valleys of the St. Lawrence. This hospital, the Royal Victoria as it is called, is one of the best equipped institutions on this continent.

He has given probably several million dollars towards the cause of education in Canada. Most of this has gone to McGill university in Montreal. The foundation of the Royal Victoria college for the higher education of women is one of the most popular and useful bequests to this university. "Donalda" it is affectionately called, in the feminine form of Strathcona's christian name. The beautiful building guarded by a white marble statue of Queen Victoria, seated, looks down upon Union avenue from Sherbrooke street just on the border of the college grounds.

One of the marked features of Lord Strathcona's character is his loyalty to every one and everything appertaining to the Hudson's Bay company. If you want to see him brighten, mention some old factor or trader in the north. They, in turn, are as loyal to him with all they have.

The company is his larger family; he is as faithful and interested in his smaller family, but with the added power that personal feelings and associations give. He is devoted to Lady Strathcona, whom he married in the Northwest when he was a factor of one of the Hudson Bay company's posts. She was a daughter of Richard Hardisty of the same company, a man whose memory is still living in the Edmonton district, where he made his name as a great trader and a boon companion. His grandchildren the sons and daughters of Dr. Robert J. B. Howard, are his great delight. His daughter and only child has the title of honorable by courtesy, and as the descent of his peerage was fixed in the female line, her eldest son is the future Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal. This Barony is, in fact, the only one created for a Canadian that has any chance of perpetuity.

Of houses, Lord Strathcona has many. His London residence is 63 Cadogan Square, S. W. Strathcona House, at Glencoe, in Argyleshire, is his estate in Scotland. Near Winnipeg is Silver Heights. In Nova Scotia, at Pictou, is Norway House. His chief Canadian residence is No. 1157 Dorchester street, Montreal. Here he has surrounded himself with an artistic atmosphere. His first picture contains many of the finest pictures on the continent; of Raphael, Titian, Reynolds, Romney, Gainsborough, Breton, Constable, Constable and Millais. The Japanese room is filled with priceless examples of eastern art. But throughout this house which is first of all a home, unostentatious comfort reigns, and through it moves with an air of perfect simplicity, the master, who has brought all these treasures together.

In private life Lord Strathcona is a most engaging host. He does not greatly care for personal talk. He is too self-contained and too watchful to be drawn out. Control and a sort of lofty prudence are expressed by his bearing and by the intrepid look in his eyes. He carries with him the atmosphere that surrounds all men who have dwelt long in solitudes. His favorite attitude when he converses is a strong folding of the arms and

a downward pondering look. His hair is now snow white; his skin is fresh, and about him is a pleasant vigor that is wonderful for his eighty years. His talk is bright, and he is equally at home in American, Canadian or English politics. There is not a financial movement of importance anywhere in the world that he is unformed upon, and his gallery of acquaintance is of amazing extent and variety, from the clerk at some outlay of the Hudson Bay company to the King of England.—Manitoba Free Press.

Creelman News.

Mrs. P. Dube, of Fillmore, spent Monday in town.

The extra express is quite a boon to the travelling public.

M. Harkins, of Fillmore, was in town on Monday on business.

Mr. Fraser (Scottie), of Stobarts, Limited, spent Sunday in town.

W. M. Black, M.A., took the services for Rev. Hugh Nixon last Sunday.

Norman Little returned to Regina on Monday after helping to harvest part of the big crop.

P. Wintimute, of Regina, representing the Manufacturers Life Insurance Co. was in town last Friday in the interests of his company.

C. L. Styles returned to town this week and will buy grain for The Lake of the Woods Milling Co. this season.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Lavier arrived from Calgary on Friday last, and expect to become citizens of our district again.

Mr. E. L. Wilson unloaded a White Threshing outfit on Tuesday, and will be ready in a few days to produce the No. 1 Hard.

Messrs. Beckstead Bros. unloaded a Nicholls Shepherd thirty horsepower engine on Wednesday and will be doing some big threshing next week.

Anyone wishing to dispose of their farm lands will do well to write the Porter Land Co., Weyburn, Sask., or to their American Office, Rainbach, Iowa.

Rev. Mr. Marshall, of Greytown, and Rev. Mr. Nixon, of Creelman, will exchange pulpits next Sabbath. Everybody is cordially invited to attend.

Quite a number of our citizens drove out to the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Posa, at Gooseberry Lake and speak in generous tones of this hospitable family.

Monday next is Labor Day, and all places of business will be closed. This will be the last holiday of the season and all should enjoy it. The school will be closed.

Mr. Fred S. Wilbur moved into town on Wednesday and will look after the interests of the Western Canada Flour Mills company at this point. We welcome you back, Fred, with a glad hand.

Mr. Geo. E. Williams leaves for North Battleford on Saturday, where he will buy gain for his company. Mr. Williams has made many friends during his stay in Creelman and all regret his departure very much.

F. C. Lowe, clerk in the Moose Mountain Lumber and Hardware Co.'s store, donned a pair of overalls one day last week and went to the rescue of a farmer in need and drove his binder all day. Good boy Frank.

The Misses Annie and Lizzie Stewart, of Orif, went to Regina on Tuesday. Miss Annie will take a course at the Federal business College and Miss Lizzie will attend the Collegiate Institute to make up third class work.

The farmers in this district are experiencing great difficulty in securing men to stook the grain. Quite a number have been compelled to drive a binder all day and stook grain all night. Surely the farmer's lot is not all sunshine even with a bumper crop.

Mrs. Austin and Miss Austin left for Regina on Friday last. Miss Austin has accepted a position as teacher in the Earl Gray school in Regina, while Mrs. Austin will return to her old home in Ontario for the winter and will return to her homestead in the New Eden district next spring.

Minard's Liniment Cures Dandruff.

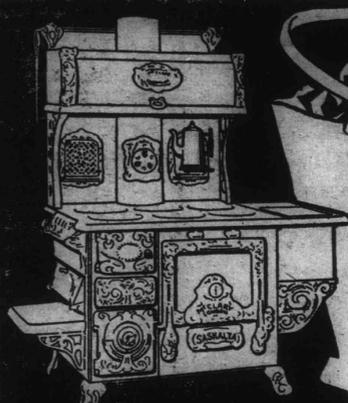
The Canadian Forestry Association Will Hold Special Meetings to Discuss WESTERN PROBLEMS

ON Friday and Sept. 3-4 Saturday,

His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Forget will open the proceedings in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Regina, at 10 a.m. Friday. There will be an afternoon session at 2 o'clock and an illustrated Lecture at 8 o'clock. The public is cordially invited to all meetings.

Excursion to Indian Head

On Saturday there will be an Excursion to the Forest Nursery at Indian Head.



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