

Two Indispensable Biographies Canadas Nation Builders

Strathcona
Tupper

The Life and Letters of Sir Charles Tupper, Bart.

The Right Hon. Sir R. L. Borden, K.C.M.G., who has written the Introduction to the above, says: "For Canadians the life of Sir Charles Tupper needs no introduction. His career as a public man is indissolubly associated with the history of Canada since Confederation."

He entered public life at the age of thirty-four in his native Province of Nova Scotia, and during the twelve years which ensued before Confederation, his public record gave abundant evidence of the magnificent courage, the fine optimism and the breadth of vision which invariably characterized him in the wider arena in which he was destined to play so distinguished a part. . . . It is not too much to say that if he had been a man of less invincible courage and determination, the project of Confederation might have been postponed for many years. . . . In 1882 he initiated the proposals for building the Canadian Pacific Railway. Many men of remarkable ability contributed to the achievement of that great enterprise. To none is due a greater meed of praise than to Tupper. For many years his prophecies of enormous development and production in the Western Territories of Canada were derided, and he was subjected to attack of a bitterness unequalled even in those days of fierce controversy. Happily for him, and fortunately for his country, he lived to see every prophecy more than doubly fulfilled.

It is a book that interests both for the story of the man and that of Canada, in the making of which he played such a prominent part.

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The Life of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal

Edited by BECKLES WILLSON.

This book is "the authorized life" of a great man and Empire-builder. A pioneer in the hardest sense, Donald Smith worked for years amid the perils of the bleak Northwest during his earlier manhood, and later, exchanging a hard life for one yet more strenuous, he embarked upon a political career which led the way to his interest in the famous railway. How much the almost unbelievable progress of Canada is due to the linking together of her prairies by the Canadian Pacific Railway is a matter which is forced home upon every student who reads the history of the Dominion in true focus, and how much the railway owed to Lord Strathcona is equally patent. His mind was built on Imperial lines. He was a big thinker and a man of very wide vision, who never truckled to money-power, but, having an honest conviction in his own common sense and well-balanced foresight, fought tooth and nail for what he felt was worth striving for—and got it. Incidentally his unusual talents were made more valuable to the Dominion by a strongly executive sense of patriotism which found outlet in "doing" as well as "saying." Some such broadly outlined picture of Lord Strathcona as the above is the general scheme of the book, and in the picture is a multitude of interesting personal details that go to make the portrait a living reality. The book abounds in letters and correspondence placed at the disposal of the author by Lord Strathcona's family, who has also given Mr. Wilson the use of documents hitherto inaccessible.

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