

gushed himself in debate, and before the close of his first session was regarded as the rising star of the Con. party. "His first speech," says Mr. Davin, in his "Irishmen in Can.," "marked him as a man for whom all things may be hoped." Sir John Macdonald, the Prime Minister, spoke of him as "the brains of the party," and designated him its future leader. For 15 yrs. or more no one, with the possible exception of Sir Charles Tupper, possessed the aged statesman's confidence to the same extent. Outside of Parlt. he undertook the work of organization for his party, and for a considerable period filled the office of Chairman of the Ex. Comte. of the Lib.-Con. Union of Ont. More than once he declined a seat in the Cabinet, and more than once he declined appt. to the highest judicial office in the Province. Mr. McC. broke with his party in 1889, in consequence of the position taken by the Cabinet on the Mercier Jesuits' Estates Act—a position to which the almost entire Prot. sentiment of the country was opposed. From this time he assumed an ind. attitude in politics. He was placed at the head of the "Equal Rights" movement, and in that character fought with courage and resolution for the rights of the people whose cause he espoused. Later, during the Thompson, Bowell and Tupper régimes, he gave battle to all comers on the Man. Sch. question. Commencing in 1893, he made several tours through the Dom., addressing large audiences, sometimes as many as 3 a day, in opposition to the policy of his former political friends. He was stigmatized by the leading party organ: "Chief of the wobblers," and read formally out of the Con. party. His efforts, however, did not slacken till the last was heard of Mr. Dickey's Remedial Bill with the defeat of the Admn. at the polls, in June, 1896. At that election Mr. McC. was returned both for North Simcoe (which constituency he had represented since 1878)

and for Brandon, in the Province of Man. Electing to stay with his old constituents, he resigned the seat for Brandon. His work as a politician being done, for the time, he has since the meeting of the new Parlt. been heard from but little. Of late his name has been mentioned in connection with a seat in the Laurier Cabinet. Politically, Mr. McC. calls himself "neither a Tory nor a Lib.," but stands to do right. Regarding the trade question, his contentions may be summarized as follows: 1st. He has thought, since 1891, that the time had come when, according to the policy laid down in 1877-78, sufficient opportunity had been afforded to manufacturers to establish their industries, and that a return should be had to the principle of a revenue tariff. 2ndly. That he was opposed to any reciprocal relations with the U. S. which involved discrimination against Gt. Brit.; short of that, he is prepared for the freest possible tariff regulations, not merely in natural products, but in manufactured articles as well. 3rdly. And chiefly, he was the advocate, and, we may say, the political parent, of the maximum and minimum tariff, giving Brit. and our sister colonies the preference, which, under the scheme of the preferential clause, has been embodied in law by the Laurier Admn. (see his resolution, 1893). Touching the future of Can., he has long since reached the conclusion that Can. would find her truest and best development within and as a part of the Brit. Empire, and that Canadians needed no higher aspiration than appertained to that position. His opinion is that nothing short of a great war, in which the Empire would suffer dismemberment, would change the political relations in which Can. stands to the Mother Country. This does not ignore the gradual extension of Canadian political rights until Canadians in all respects stand on an equality with the Englishman, Irishman and Scotchman. He is Presdt.