

At the general election of 1878, he was an unsuccessful candidate for Rimouski; but William McDougall, the member for Three Rivers, having made way for him, he was chosen for the vacated constituency by acclamation. In the new Conservative administration he became postmaster-general, an office he retained till 1879. During that year he went to England on behalf of his Government, about the proposed removal of Mr. Letellier, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec. He succeeded in his mission, during which he again became minister of public works. This office he has recently resigned owing to parliamentary criticism on the administration of his department, for which, as we think, he has unfairly been held responsible. In acknowledgment of his brilliant parts, and the service he has rendered to the Dominion and to the French-Canadian people, the Queen conferred upon him the knight commandership of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Sir Hector Langevin is an astute and able statesman; his whole aim is to create a feeling of brotherhood among his own people and their English-speaking compatriots, and to develop a spirit of loyalty throughout the country to the British Empire. In politics, he is a Liberal-Conservative, and in religion, a Roman Catholic. In 1854 he married Justine, eldest daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Charles H. Têtu, J.P. Lady Langevin died on the 29th October, 1882. Sir Hector Langevin has issue: one son and three daughters.

JOHN BERTRAM,

Dundas, Ont.

THE name of John Bertram, head of the firm of Bertram & Sons, of the Canada Tool Works, Dundas, is well known in manufacturing circles throughout the Dominion, as well as in many other parts of the world. He was born at Eddlestone, Peeblesshire, Scotland, September 13th, 1829, his parents being Alexander and Margaret Bertram. The latter's maiden name was Amiers; she was the descendant of a family the male members of which were leading millwrights and engineers from the beginning of the seventeenth century; in fact they were the pioneers of the millwrighting industry in the south of Scotland. In the old burying ground in the manufacturing town of Galashiels there is a headstone on which is engraved a cog-wheel, compass and square, and an inscription recording the fact that Robert Amiers, millwright, died in 1739, aged 78 years. As a boy, young Bertram, who was fourth of a family of eight children, attended the parochial school in his native place, afterwards taking a course at Galashiels, where he subsequently learn-

ed his trade as a machinist with his uncle, Thomas Amiers. In May, 1852, he married Elizabeth Bennett, a daughter of the late Henry Bennett, one of an old family of agriculturists in Roxboroughshire, and with her he came to Canada in the same year, locating in Dundas. For nearly eight years he worked in the old Gartshore foundry, then one of the leading manufacturing establishments in Canada, and in 1865 he formed a partnership with Robert McKechnie, junr., under the name and style of McKechnie & Bertram, in the manufacture of iron and wood-working machinery. The firm started in a small way as regards capital, but its members had pluck and energy, combined with a mechanical skill and aptitude which ultimately made the Canada Tool Works the most famous of its kind in this country,—a reputation which, we need hardly say, it successfully maintains at the present day. The works were destroyed by fire in the second year of the partnership, but they were put in operation again with renewed vigour, and the business has kept increasing until it obtained gigantic proportions, a result chiefly owing to the splendid quality of the machines manufactured. At the Philadelphia Centennial, in 1876, and at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition in London, ten years later, their exhibits were among the finest shown. Mr. Bertram continued in partnership with Mr. McKechnie until 1886, when the latter retired, and the former took in as partners his sons, Henry and Alexander, thus forming the firm of Bertram & Sons, the juniors, as well as their father, being thoroughly practical machinists. The new firm at once proceeded to make a complete change in the style of their machinery and in the system of management of the works, and the business has been going on with great success ever since. About 150 hands are constantly employed; the pay roll being the largest in the town. The premises cover nearly four acres, and the tools made take no second place compared with others of the same class on the continent. In his sons, Mr. Bertram has able lieutenants. Alexander attends chiefly to the trade, Henry has the oversight of the internal management of the machine department, while James, the youngest of the family, is in charge of the draughting section. Politically, Mr. Bertram was a Reformer up to the time of Confederation, when, to use his own expression, he "drove the Canadian weft into the Scotch woof," but has since supported the Conservative party and the policy of protection to home industry. In municipal affairs he has at times taken considerable interest, having served as councillor for many years, held the offices of reeve and deputy-reeve, and latterly was mayor from the death of the late Henry Bickford to the close of the year 1890. He has, also, travel-