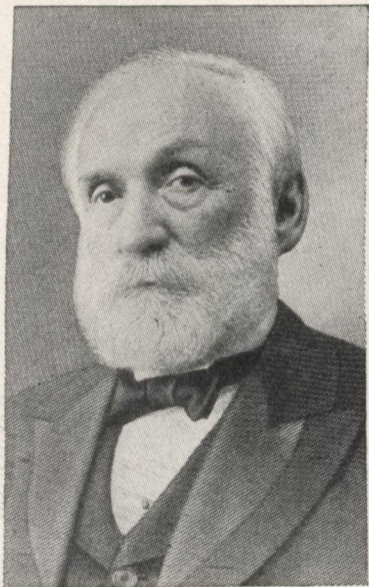
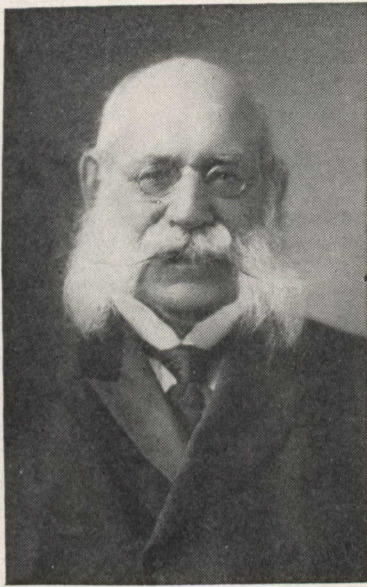




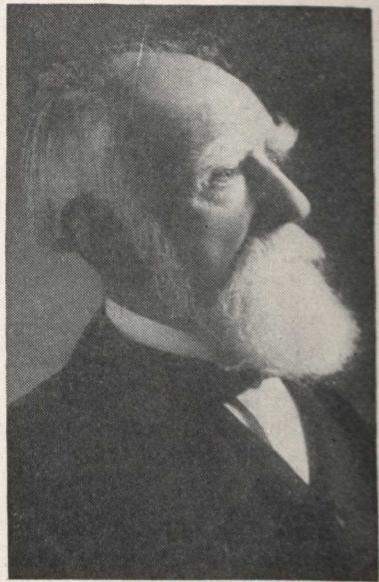
Senator William Ross



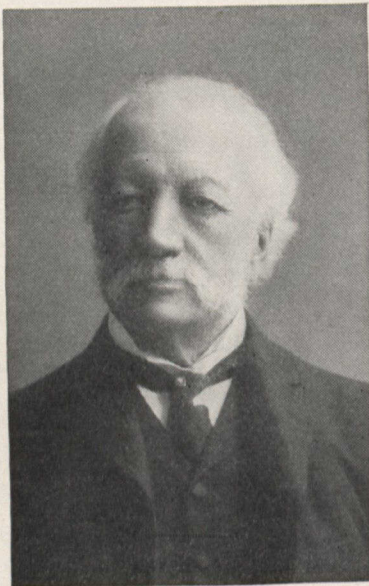
Sir Mackenzie Bowell.



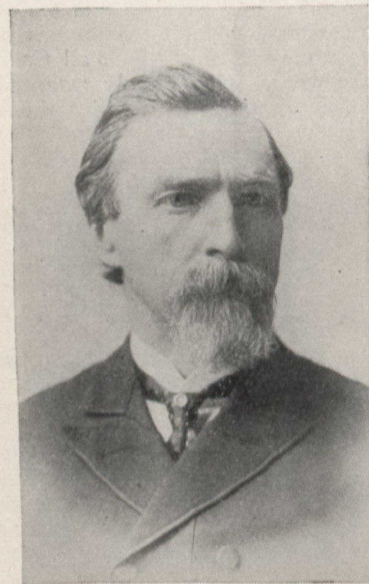
Sir Richard Cartwright.



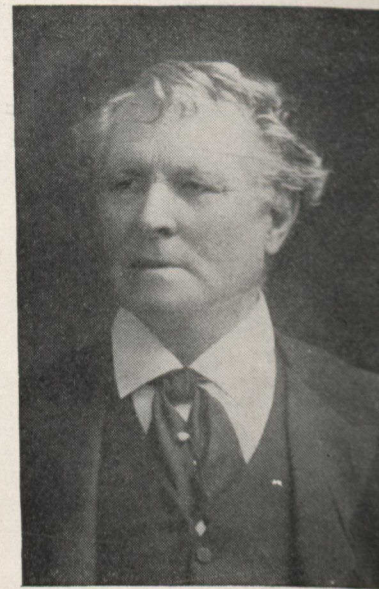
Lord Strathcona.



Sir James Grant.



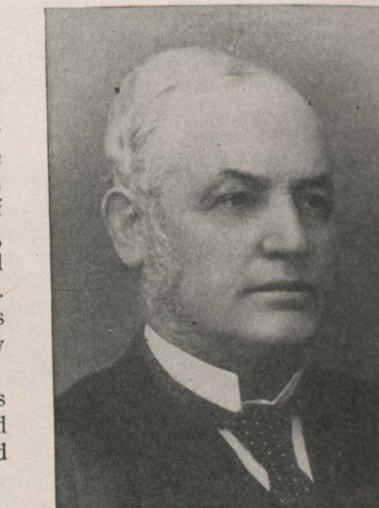
Hon. James Young



Hon. Edward Blake.



Senator William Miller.



Sir John Carling.

## HONOURING THE PATRIARCHS

### *Banquet to the Old Guard*

**L**AST week's banquet by the Canadian Club of Ottawa to the surviving members of the first Dominion Parliament was well designed, but unfortunately only eight of the twenty-four guests of honour were able to be present. Nevertheless, there were about two hundred persons present, some important communications were read, some excellent speeches made, and much honour paid where honour is due.

The occasion recalls the two-fold difficulties of Confederation—those which hampered its consummation and those which made its realisation no easy task. In connection with the former, Sir John Carling wrote as follows:

"It was in the early sixties, and the situation in Canada was serious indeed. Elections had been held, but neither party was able to secure a working majority. Party feeling rose so high that the two leaders—Hon. John Macdonald and Hon. George Brown—ceased to be on speaking terms. Statesmen and political writers seemed to have given up all hope, for matters were going from bad to worse. 'Whither are we drifting?' was a standing head-line in the newspapers, and there was talk in some quarters of throwing in our lot with the neighbouring republic. I happened to be on my way to Quebec to attend my parliamentary duties one day, and when the train reached Toronto, George Brown, the leader of the Reform party, came into the coach in which I was seated and sat down beside me. We soon got into conversation, the subject naturally being the political crisis. Finally Mr. Brown brought his hand down on the arm of the seat with some force and vehemently exclaimed, 'Carling, John A. has the chance of his life if he will only avail himself of it.' 'What is it?' I asked. 'Let him go in for confederation,' was the reply. 'Would you support such a movement?' 'Most decidedly I would,' he returned. Mr. Brown consented to my making known to the cabinet the attitude of the Reformers on the Confederation question, and the news was most welcome. The assurance of support gave the party in power courage, the outcome being negotiations ultimately leading to the consummation of Confederation."

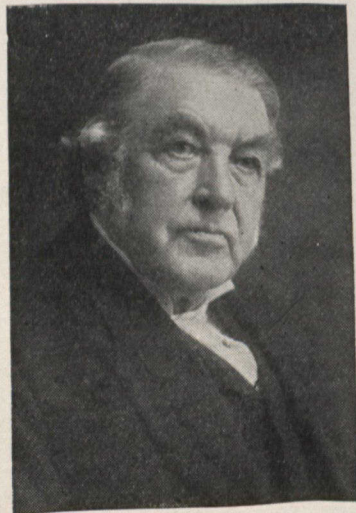
The history of the negotiations, the differences of opinion on many phases of the new constitution, the difficulties with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the withdrawal of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, are familiar facts to constitutional students. But even when the B. N. A. Act was finally worked through the British Parliament and July 1st, 1867, proclaimed as the first Confederation Day, there was much hard work to be done. To change from one form of government to another is not an easy task for any nation. The new Constitution had to be studied, interpreted and made to work practically. The reorganisation of all the branches of government, and the centralising of administrative and judicial authority at Ottawa presented many difficulties. However, the men of the First Parliament did well and to them be all honour.

The eight survivors who were present at the Canadian Club's banquet were Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Hon. John Costigan, Hon. William Miller, Hon. William Ross, Sir James Grant, Mr. Basile Benoit, Hon. G. B. Baker and Sheriff Hagar.

Writing in the *Canadian Magazine* in 1896, Mr. J. E. Atkinson described the careers of five men who had been in the old Parliament of Canada and were then still serving at Ottawa. They were: Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir John Carling, Sir Hector Langevin, Mr. Bowman and Mr. Bourassa. There were four others who had served continuously from 1867 to 1896: Hon. John Costigan, Sir Charles Tupper, Mr. M. C. Cameron and Dr. Cameron. Of these nine veterans with unbroken records, only two remain in Parliament, Sir Richard Cartwright and Hon. John Costigan. Of the other seven, all have passed to their reward except Sir Charles Tupper and Sir John Carling. Long may these four veteran parliamentarians live to take such enjoyment as they may in watching the upbuilding of the strong, young nation which they have helped to create.

The following is a complete list of the surviving members with the dates on which they entered Parliament. It will be noticed that Sir Richard Cartwright and Sir John Carling were in the old Parliament of Canada, and

CONCLUDED ON PAGE 26



Sir Charles Tupper.