

UNVEILING OF THE MONUMENT

ERECTED AT OTTAWA

In Memory of the

n
Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald

G. C. B.



Monument to SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.

Erected on Parliament Hill.

Unveiled July 1, 1895.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

UNVEILING OF THE MONUMENT

TO

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD, G.C.B.

AT OTTAWA, JULY 1st, 1895

OTTAWA
GOVERNMENT PRINTING BUREAU
1895



THE proceedings on the occasion of the unveiling of the monument erected by Parliament on Parliament Hill, to the memory of Sir John Macdonald, were in their nature historic, and it has been deemed fitting to preserve in pamphlet form the addresses and other business of the day, which would otherwise be in some degree lost in the rapidly accumulating columns of the newspapers.

The following report taken from the *Montreal Gazette* of July 2nd, 1895, has been adopted for the purpose; and in order that the memory of Sir Geo. Cartier, K. C. M. G., so long the colleague and personal friend of Sir John Macdonald, may be on this occasion, as so often during life, connected with that of his distinguished colleague, it has been considered proper that there should be appended to this report, the speech delivered by Sir John Macdonald on the occasion of the unveiling of the statue of Sir Geo. Cartier on January 29th, 1885.

ADDRESSES

DELIVERED BY

SIR MACKENZIE BOWELL, K.C.M.G., SIR ADOLPHE
CARON, K.C.M.G., LIEUT.-GOVERNOR KIRK-
PATRICK AND OTHERS.

OTTAWA, July 1.—The distinctive feature of Dominion day celebration here was the unveiling of the statue of Sir John Macdonald, erected by the people of Canada in loving memory of the great statesman, to whom more than to any other one man the Dominion owes its existence. The day was perfect, the attendance large, fully five thousand persons being on the grounds, and the ceremony passed off without the slightest hitch or flaw to mar it. The platform, erected at the south-east corner of the Senate, exactly opposite the monument, was comfortably filled, but not overcrowded, as is so frequently the case at such ceremonies, and every window in the Senate wing and Eastern block, from which a view of the monument could be obtained was occupied. On the platform were nearly all the senators and members who had not taken advantage of the parliamentary holiday to run home, amongst them being Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Sir A. P. Caron, Hon. John Costigan, Hon. T. Mayne Daly, Hon. Geo. E. Foster, Hon. Dr. Montague, Hon. A. R. Angers, Hon. A. R. Dickey, Speakers Ross, of the Senate, and White, of the Commons, Senators McKay, Read, Clemow, and others. Amongst the members of Parliament present were Messrs. Taylor, Tisdale, Prior, Mills (Annapolis), Cochrane, Robillard, Cargill, Sir James Grant, etc.; Hon. Wm. McDougall, Chief Justice Sir Henry Strong, Archdeacon

Lauder, Rev. Mr. Bogart, Rev. Mr. Snowden, Rev. W. W. Carson, of Detroit. Three provinces, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, were represented by their lieutenant-governors, Messrs. Kirkpatrick, Daly and Howlan. Shortly before twelve the military, consisting of the local corps and the Royal Scots, marched into the grounds and took up a position on the lawn in front of the buildings, forming three sides of a square: and as the midday gun announced the hour of noon, the Ottawa Field Battery, which was stationed to the east of the Eastern block, fired the customary salute of twenty-one guns. This is the first time that a Dominion day salute has been fired from Parliament hill, the salute being usually fired from Nepean point. The troops in line then gave three hearty cheers and the band played "God Save the Queen."

LORD ABERDEEN'S TELEGRAM.

SIR MACKENZIE BOWELL, who was warmly received on coming forward to address the gathering, said:— I regret exceedingly the unavoidable absence of His Excellency as the representative of the Crown upon this memorable occasion, for the reason given in the following telegram:—

QUEBEC, June 30, 1895.

To the Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Ottawa :

Allow me to offer my best wishes on the auspicious occasion of the unveiling of the memorial of Sir John A. Macdonald. It is not many weeks since I had the pleasure of travelling with you to Montreal to take part in the unveiling of another memorial to the same great man, and I greatly regret that owing to arrangements made before I learned of the proceedings of Monday I can not be present on this occasion. Obviously in no place could such a monument be more appropriately erected than in the official capital of Canada; nor could the inaugural ceremony be held on a more opportune day than that on which we commemorate the formation of the Dominion. The memory of Sir John A. Macdonald has a secure and a cherished place in the hearts of his countrymen, and it is well that by these public monuments future generations may be reminded or taught of his career, his services and the patriotic sentiments by which he was inspired and actuated

(Signed) ABERDEEN.

(Cheers).

SIR JOHN MACDONALD'S LOYALTY.

The Premier continued :—If there was one characteristic of Sir John Macdonald more marked than all the others it may fairly be said to have been his loyal devotion to the Crown and his constant care for the interests of the British Empire. And if that loyalty was so marked and so productive of good for the Empire, it was in return loyally recognized. The honours which, towards the close of his active life, were showered upon Sir John Macdonald by the Queen, by learned bodies, and by his own country, were splendid rewards for splendid service. (Cheers.) In the letter which Her Majesty wrote to Lady Macdonald on July 2nd, 1891, the Queen said :—“ I wish also to say how truly and sincerely grateful I am for his devoted and faithful services which he rendered for so many years to his sovereign and the Dominion.” Her Majesty has seen many great men come and go, in her service, during the last half century ; but we may fairly claim that among them all, no man contributed more to strengthen the arm of Great Britain or to increase respect for British institutions and traditions than did Sir John Macdonald. When the bust of Sir John Macdonald was placed in the crypt of St. Paul's, in London, where the sun may be seen shining upon it always on a fine morning, Lord Rosebery, in the course of a speech which I hope will never be forgotten in this country, said :—“ We are gradually collecting within this cathedral the household gods of our commonwealth. Up above, there sleep Wellington and Nelson, those lords of war who preserved the Empire ; below, we have the effigies of Daly and Macdonald who did so much to extend it. We have not indeed their bodies. These rest more fitly in the regions where they lived and laboured ; but here to-day we consecrate their memory and their example. We know nothing of party politics in Canada on this occasion. We recognize only this, that Sir John Macdonald had grasped the central

idea that the British Empire is the greatest secular agency for good now known to mankind ; that that was the secret of his success ; that he determined to die under it, and strove that Canada should live under it." (Applause.) We are here to-day for a like purpose and in a like manner.

No one has embalmed the memory of Sir John Macdonald in nobler language than the present leader of the Opposition, whose address in 1891, when referring to the loss which Canada had sustained in his death, will not soon be forgotten. I regret sincerely his engagements which have prevented his presence on this occasion ; but his absence, I venture to say, does not deprive us of his sympathy. We all recognize the fact that the labours of the dead man were labours for our common country, and that the honours which he wore were honours paid to our common public service—to that service in which, with different policies, we who are in public life have devoted ourselves. The generation is now growing old which is in a condition to bear personal testimony to the labours and anxieties of those who framed the constitution and institutions of the Dominion of Canada. And in those labours and anxieties, Sir John Macdonald had in the nature of things the largest share.

Those among you who are young and see all about you the machinery of government, of law, of commerce, of transportation running easily and successfully day by day, would do well to study with some degree of minute care the history of the last half century in Canada. In that time the whole face of the country has been, so to speak, altered. In territorial extent, in commercial activity, in facilities for transport, in political conditions, in the character of our laws and our institutions, Canada has witnessed such changes as would startle many, if not most, of our predecessors who passed away at an earlier stage of our development. It was, however, very characteristic of Sir John Macdonald that, though he was a witness and a

worker in all the remarkable changes of his time, he was never startled at changes and never doubtful about the capacity of the country for growth and development. His mind was so constituted that new conditions did not confuse him and he seemed to grow greater in his capacity as the country grew greater in size and importance. (Cheers.) Indeed, so easily did he accustom himself to the changed and changing conditions of public administration, and to the multiplication of serious responsibilities that he was known to say that, after all, his most strenuous work was done before Confederation. We would be less just and less generous than he was, if we did not recognize that in the formation and early government of the Dominion he had the aid of the ablest men of all the provinces some of whom have passed away; others like Tilley in New Brunswick and Sir Charles Tupper in London, Hon. Wm. McDougall, now on the platform, and our co-worker in the House of Commons, Sir Hector Langevin, still live to bear witness to the genius of the men they followed with such helpful devotion. (Applause.)

MACDONALD AND CARTIER.

But among them there was one whose name still is powerful to evoke strong feeling among a large part of our population whenever it is spoken. At a little distance from us—at the other side of this building—there rises the statue of another Canadian statesman, Sir George Cartier. The genius of Canadian history must surely contemplate with pride and satisfaction the public honours paid in the same signal manner to these two great men and friends. Together they fought the battle of politics for causes they deemed the best. Together they laboured to frame the constitution of the Dominion of Canada. Together they launched a new Dominion upon its not inglorious career. Now they rest in graves, divided as to distance, but each in his own province, but together their memories remain

to us a noble example of private friendship and public honour ; and together their statues dignify and adorn these grounds which were so often the scenes of their labours. (Cheers.)

I could wish for an eloquence, not mine to exhibit, in order to say more in their praise and to signalize this occasion more fittingly. But having said so much in their honour, let me suppose for a moment what lesson it is that these silent but suggestive monuments should teach us. Lord Rosebery has offered at least one suggestion. These monuments teach us that the British Empire is one of the greatest secular agents for good that the world has ever seen. This was the testimony which Macdonald and Cartier gave during a lifetime. Again they teach us that civic freedom is better preserved by British laws, traditions and institutions than under any system in the world. (Cheers.) Macdonald and Cartier laboured to preserve and perpetuate them. Again they teach us that public men engaged in a common cause if they wish to be great and successful and honoured, must keep faith with each other. They teach us, too, that as the Empire is greater than the Dominion, so the Dominion is greater and more important than the province ; and the province more important than any of its cities or towns. They teach us that if there is friction with the Imperial authorities it is our duty to lessen it ; if there is jealousy among the provinces, it is our duty to allay it ; if there are differences in race and religion it is our most solemn duty to minimize and assuage them ; if there is rivalry among parties it is our duty to think first of the country and its needs ; and if there are difficulties in the way of the good government of the country, it is our duty as men of affairs to overcome them. (Applause.) If we have any doubt about the carrying out of such teaching, any doubt of our own ability to fulfil it, let us remember that other lesson taught us by these monuments, viz., that no men ever laboured with loyalty and honesty for the public good without being sooner or later rewarded by the support and applause of a grateful people. (Cheers.)

A WORD OF PERSONAL RECOLLECTION.

One word I may be allowed to say in my own person as filling the responsible office of First Minister—an office which has fallen upon me so unexpectedly, not of my own seeking, but by such signal losses to the country as the death of a Macdonald, an Abbott and a Thompson. In my youth I was witness of many of the triumphs of the statesmen of a past generation. I was struck with an admiration, which never ceased, of the genius of Macdonald. I entered public life as his supporter. To his fortunes I adhered in good and evil times. It is now my pride to know that I shared his confidence and joined in his policy to the day of his death. And I hope that no circumstance of public life will ever find his old admirers and followers faithless to his policy or his memory. (Great cheers.) The young men of Canada, who, in the natural course of events, must, ere long, take our places in the councils of the Dominion, should learn to emulate him in his aspirations to create a united Canada, and make it the right arm of British power on this continent, and never cease until that object is attained, thus assisting in perpetuating the memory of

“ Him of the wider vision
Who had one hope, elysian,
To mould a mighty empire towards the west ;
Who through the hostile years,
Mid the wrangling words like spears,
Still bore this Titan vision in his breast.”

(Applause.)

And now, having said all that seems to me fitting to say, in view of the fact that others are to come after me, with feelings of pride and emotion, which I am sure will be sympathized in by you all, in the name of the Parliament of Canada, and may I not add, in the name of a grateful people, I dedicate this monument to the memory of Sir John Alexander Macdonald. (Cheers.)

The statue was then unveiled amid great enthusiasm.

MR. WEIR'S POEM.

Mr. Arthur Weir then read the following poem, which he had written at the request of the Government :—

Here, in the solemn shadow of these walls,
Wherein his voice did long the nation sway,
Here, where the cadence of the distant falls
Seems a lament for grandeur passed away,
We who have reaped where he has sown, now bring
To him this thanksgiving,
This tribute to the unforgotten great
That, for all time, men may revere his name,
Our children learn the secret of true fame,
True greatness emulate.

We paid, long since the tribute of our tears,
When, in the fulness of his power, he died ;
But now that grief has been assuaged by years,
We mourn not, but rejoice, with sober pride,
That one of earth's immortals, wise and strong,
Dwelt in our midst so long,
Teaching large thoughts and love of liberty,
And, Atlas-like, upon his shoulders bore
Our world of care, until, his travail o'er,
He passed from us away.

He walked through life triumphant, Fortune's son,
What were to others barriers, were to him
But gates, through which his high success was won,
He held strange spirit commune with the dim
Shapes of the future. His far-reaching mind
Some harmony did find
In elements discordant ; and man's strength
And weakness served with him the noble end
To build a nation and all factions blend
In brotherhood, at length.

He found the seven sisters of the North,
The Sea-Queen's daughters, in primeval woods,
By lonely streams, lamenting, and them forth
He led from desert lands and solitudes.
The Pleiades of nations, they have shone
Upon Britannia's throne ;
With every passing year, their golden light
Waxing in lustre, until every land
In wonder looks upon the glorious band
That breaks the Northern night.

And shall we, in whose midst so long he dwelt,
Who had commune so long with his great mind,
Forsake his teachings, and, like Israel, melt
Our gold to rear false gods ! Shall we grow blind
To those large thoughts that tolerance which long
Made this Dominion strong ?
Nay, never so ! He left an heritage
Worthy himself and us ; be ours the pride
To weld this new Dominion, rich and wide,
More close from age to age.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON, Postmaster General, said :—

Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Your Honours, Ladies and Gentlemen :—A nation which shows respect for her public men and for the memory of her illustrious dead, is a nation which possesses within itself one of the elements which make a strong, rich and happy people. Canada possesses to a great extent that qualification which we find among the powerful peoples of the earth. Canada has not forgotten her dead ; Canada has not forgotten Sir John Macdonald, the great statesman, the most illustrious of her sons. Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, have distinguished themselves by building up to his memory monuments in granite and in bronze to commemorate his virtues and to commemorate his patriotic deeds. I feel it somewhat difficult, and I wish to admit it, to do justice to this occasion. I have been called upon on four different occasions to take part in the demonstrations to which I have referred ; but, with a Canadian audience, it is always possible to appeal to sentiments of admiration and gratitude when a word is spoken of Sir John Macdonald. (Cheers.)

His life was a great example, and it is known in history that great examples constitute the lessons which form great statesmen. His example was a noble example. After forty-seven years of arduous labours, Sir John Macdonald, feeling that he was getting old, wished to retire from his public duties to take that rest and quiet which he wanted after so many years of unselfish service. But he felt that the necessities of the country, that several public considerations which in his mind were superior to private considerations, demanded that he should remain at the helm and look after what he thought to be the best interests of the country which he loved so well. And, sir, before he could retire to take the rest which he had so well earned, he

MET THE DIRE ENEMY

on the field of battle. May we not say, following up what I have already mentioned about good example forming good citizens, may we not say this of his illustrious successor, Sir John Thompson, whom we all regret so much to-day. Sir John Thompson, as I knew so well, was aware that he was suffering from a fatal illness which was not going to forgive him; still he remained in the position which he considered he was filling in the interests of the country, and the result of it was that far across the ocean he died—far away from family and from friends—receiving, however, the greatest reward that a statesman and a patriot could wish for, receiving the greatest honours that could be conferred upon a subject, and almost laying down his life at the feet of his Sovereign, who had conferred these honours on him. (Cheers.)

Ladies and gentlemen, these are the examples which Sir John Macdonald and which Sir John Thompson, his successor, have given us Canadians. The history of Sir John Macdonald's life is the history of Canada. If you read one you read the other. His name is connected with every step which Canada has made in the great highway of development, progress and prosperity. Looking around, we Canadians must experience within our breasts a feeling of pride and satisfaction when we consider that when Sir John Macdonald came into public life for the first time, long before the union of the provinces in 1840, he found Canada all divided; he found one province arrayed against the other province. He found Englishmen believing that it would be impossible to govern Canada on account of the Frenchmen, and he found Frenchmen believing that it was impossible to form a contented, prosperous and happy people because these divisions existed. But, sir, from the moment his great mind grasped the difficulty, he saw what was required to make Canada what Canada is to-day. He felt that it was imperative with any statesman deserving of that name to be the

APOSTLE OF CONCILIATION,

of union between the races, and he immediately undertook that great work which, to my mind, is the greatest work of his life. He went to work and became the apostle of conciliation among these different races. He told those whom he trusted as his lieutenants to go abroad and tell the people of Canada that "united we stand, divided we fall." Without this union it is impossible to make of this country what we all wish it to be, and the result of this harmony which he created and developed has been that from those disconnected provinces, which to each other were almost like foreign countries, he with his colleagues founded the great Dominion of Canada, the twenty-eighth birthday of which we commemorate to-day.

It is certain that great men beget great periods in history. In the history of the old monarchies great Sovereigns produced great reigns and gathered around them illustrious men whose names shine with their own in the pages of the history of the period. So it was with Sir John Macdonald. What a wonderful array of talent, patriotism and devotion to country was grouped around him during his labours. Such names as Baldwin, Cartier, Lafontaine, McNab, Draper, Langevin, Hincks, Dorion, Taché, Brown, Morin, Mowat, D'Arcy McGee, Tupper, Galt, Tilley, Abbott, Thompson. (Cheers.) And, sir, I ask you, can we for one moment ignore our interests to such an extent as not to comprehend that policy laid down by Sir John Macdonald, laid down by Cartier, who fought by his side; as I said, this policy is the only one which can be followed if we want to make Canada what we consider Canada should be. Cartier and Macdonald! you were the founders of Confederation; in life you met on the same battle fields within the Parliamentary Halls and to-day on Parliament Hill you are again brought together, still the heroes of the people, still the representatives of the love and admiration of the two great races which are working together

with shoulder to shoulder to make Canada a great nation. (Applause.)

Where could a more appropriate place be found for a grateful people to erect imperishable tokens of its admiration than at the very threshold of the Legislative Buildings where you fought so well and so bravely side by side the battles of your country, the battles of Canada? It is on the same hill which your footsteps so often crossed, near those halls where your voice was so often heard, that we are gathered to-day to unveil a monument to you, John Alexander Macdonald! And, I ask you, what day could be more appropriate to unveil a monument to Canada's most noble son than the day when, twenty-eight years ago, Confederation, the child of your fertile genius, the result of your policy of conciliation between races, was born, and I ask you all, ladies and gentlemen, is it not a proud day for us? We all feel that we have

MADE GREAT LOSSES,

great losses in the statesmen who have left us, Sir John Macdonald, Sir John Thompson and others; still do we not feel a satisfaction in knowing that the people of Canada have continued in the footsteps of these men, and that under the guidance of Sir John Macdonald's lieutenants, those to whom he was so devoted a friend and so cherished a leader, our grand Dominion is sturdily advancing to manhood. Let us stand shoulder to shoulder as did those great men, Macdonald and Cartier, the representatives of the two greatest races of people on this half of the American continent. Let us stand shoulder to shoulder and you need not fear; whatever danger you may have to encounter, you will be strong enough, if you remain united, to face that danger and to master it. (Cheers.)

And, now, I wish to say one word and I think I might have allowed the excellent address which has been pronounced by the Prime Minister, an older colleague of Sir John Macdonald,

to remain unfollowed, that I might have kept silent after the address which he has made to you, but that I believed that in speaking I would be voicing the feelings of many of the people here by offering our

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ARTIST,

a Canadian, Mr. Phillippe Hébert, who, though comparatively a young man, has distinguished himself not only at home but in the old country. I see in this evidence that Canada is not only making progress in the highway of commercial development, but also that Canada has found within itself all the elements which constitute a people. We have Canadians who have attracted the attention of the old country by such work as graces Parliament Hill to-day. I was in Paris when Mr. Hébert was working on his model, and from what I saw there I am not at all surprised at the success which has crowned his effort.

Ladies and Gentlemen: You will forgive me if I have addressed you longer than I had intended, but I was carried away by the inspiration of this gathering, and I was carried away, too, by memories of the chieftain, the statesman so loved by the people of Canada. (Prolonged cheers.)

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO.

LIEUT.-GOVERNOR KIRKPATRICK: I have only to say that I come here with a great deal of satisfaction to be present at the unveiling of the statue of Sir John Macdonald, my old personal friend and political leader. A very fit and proper day has been selected for this imposing ceremony. It is the anniversary of the birthday of the Dominion, that Dominion of which Sir John Macdonald was the architect, founder and builder. No more fitting or appropriate day could be selected, and in no more fitting way could we celebrate the day than to unveil this monument here in the presence of these senators and members of

Parliament who represent the law-makers and guardians of that constitution which his genius framed—in the presence of these citizen soldiers, who represent the strength and patriotic ardour of the people of Canada—and in the presence of the hundreds and thousands of the people of Canada, the representatives of the yeomanry and wage-earners of this country, for whom Sir John Macdonald laboured without ceasing, knowing that their welfare and prosperity meant the welfare and prosperity of the Dominion he loved so well. Sir John Macdonald's life was the history of Canada, and I could not now go into that. I have only to say that, so long as history remains, the name of Sir John Macdonald will be preserved. In the words that were spoken at the time of his death, "he lies mute to-day, but fame still speaks for him and shall for aye." His memory lives in unforgetting hearts, and will go down through the pages of history with the gratitude of the people of Canada for all that he did for them. A short time ago I read some hostile criticism upon the recurrence of these events, the unveiling of these monuments, and the eulogistic tributes paid to the memory of the deceased statesman. I considered that the criticism was in bad taste, but I considered also that it was an insult to the people of Canada, a slur upon their intelligence, that they should have retained in power for over forty years a man who (according to the criticism I have referred to) did not possess the attributes of a statesman, and did not love his country, as we know full well he did. (Cheers.)

FROM THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR DALY said this ceremonial touched him more deeply than any words could express. He was proud that in his person the voice of his province should be heard in commemoration of an event of national and even imperial significance. He referred to Sir John Macdonald's connection with his father, who was provincial secretary in the Macdonald

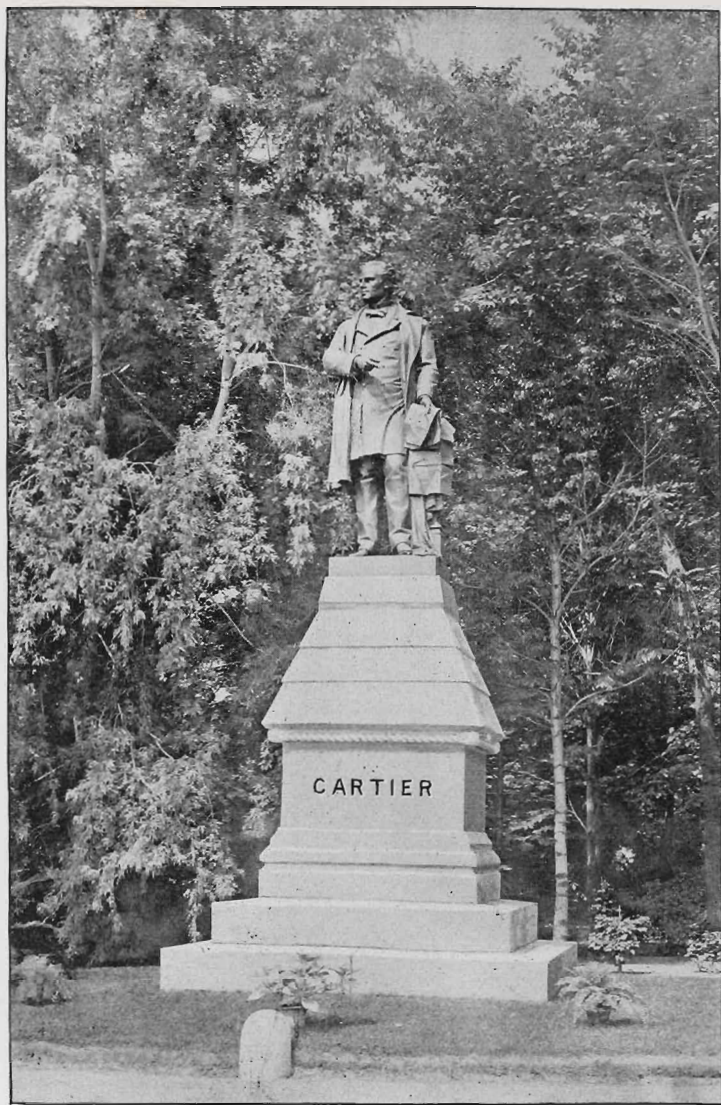
Government, and said he had come eleven hundred miles to pay his tribute to the memory and the policy of a great man who would, he believed, always be held dear by Canadians as the great founder and benefactor of this Dominion. (Applause.)

MR. G. W. HOWLAN, Lieutenant-Governor of Prince Edward Island, who was cordially received, said he had come a distance of fifteen hundred miles to be present at the ceremony. He was glad to be there and to listen to the patriotic utterances which had fallen from Sir Mackenzie Bowell and the other speakers. He was quite sure that if Sir John Macdonald had had the opportunity he would have chosen such a day as this for a ceremony of this kind. He recalled the time prior to Confederation, when little was known in the Maritime Provinces with regard to the upper portions of Canada, and the same ignorance prevailed in the latter portions of this country with regard to the provinces down by the sea. Thanks to the efforts of Sir John Macdonald, however, the Maritime Provinces were induced to enter Confederation, and were now closely united to the rest of the Dominion. It was at Charlottetown that the scheme of union was started, and that city might be said to be the cradle of Confederation. Since the Maritime Provinces had entered the union they had been treated fairly and with a great deal of consideration and respect. There was talk now of Newfoundland becoming part of the Dominion, and he hoped when that colony came into the family of nations she would be accorded similar treatment. He had a right to be present at this ceremony because of another reason. When the late Sir John Macdonald was worn out with sickness he came to Prince Edward Island to seek a rest, and it was there that he was able to find the change of air and scene that restored him once more to health.

On the invitation of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, the immense audience gave three cheers for the Queen, and the ceremony was brought to a close with three cheers for the Premier.

The following is the speech delivered by Sir John Macdonald on the occasion of the unveiling of the monument to Sir George E. Cartier :—

“ We are assembled to-day to do honour to the memory of a great and good man. The Parliament of Canada has voted a sum of money for the purpose of defraying the cost of erecting a fitting statue to Sir George Cartier. In doing so, I believe Parliament truly represented the desires and wishes of the whole people of the Dominion to do honour to the memory of that statesman. That lamented gentleman, during the whole of his official life, was my colleague. As we acted together for years, from the time he took office in 1855 until 1873, when he was cut off, it is almost impossible for me to allude to his services to the country without at the same time passing in some degree a laudation upon the Government of which he and I were both members. But there is no necessity for me to recall to your memory the deeds of Sir George Cartier. He served his country faithfully and well; indeed, his life was cut short by his unremitting exertions in the cause of this country. I believe no public man, since Canada has been Canada, has retained, during the whole of his life, as was the case with Sir George Cartier, in such an eminent degree, the respect of both the parties into which this great country is divided. He was a strong, constant Lower Canadian. He never disguised his principles, he carried them faithfully and honestly into practice. But while he did this he allowed others the same liberty he claimed for himself, and approved of the principle that each man should do according to his conscience what he thought best for the good of the country. The consequence was that even those gentlemen who were strongly opposed to his political course and views gave due credence to his honesty of purpose, and believed that, whether



Monument to SIR GEORGE ETIENNE CARTIER.

Erected on Parliament Hill.

Unveiled Jan. 29, 1885.

right or wrong, he was acting according to the best of his judgment and the impulses of his conscience. As for myself, when the tie between us was broken, no man could have suffered more keenly than I did at the loss of my colleague and my friend. I shall leave it to others to expatiate upon his labours more particularly. Sufficient for me to say that he did what he regarded to be in the interest, not of a section, but of the whole country. Nevertheless he was a French-Canadian. From the time he entered Parliament, he was true to his province, his people, his race and his religion. At the same time he had no trace of bigotry—no trace of fanaticism. Why, those who were opposed to him in his own province used to call him a French-speaking Englishman. He was as popular among the English-speaking people as he was among his own countrymen, and justly so, because he dealt out even justice to the whole people of Canada, without regard to race, origin, religion, or principles. Gentlemen, he was true to his province, he was true to the institutions of his province, and if he had done nothing else than see to the complete codification of the law of his native province, if he had done nothing else but give to Quebec the most perfect code of law that exists in the whole world, that was enough to make him immortal among civilized people who knew his merits, knew his exertions, and knew the value of the great code of civil law he conferred on his country. I shall say no more respecting what he did, but I will speak of him as a man, truthful, honest and sincere; his word was as good as his bond, and his bond was priceless. A true friend, he never deserted a friend. Brave as a lion, he was afraid of nothing. He did not fear a face of clay. But while he was bold, as I have said, in the assertions of his own principles—and he carried them irrespective of consequences—he respected the convictions of others. I can speak of him perfectly, because I knew his great value—his great value as a statesman, his great value as a man, his great value as a friend. I loved him when he was

living; I regretted and wept for him when he died. I shall not keep you here longer by any remarks of mine. Others, coming from his own province, will speak of his merits. Gentlemen, I shall now unveil the statue. It is, I believe, a fine work of art, and we have the satisfaction of knowing that in the hands of the sculptor it has been a labour of love, that the statue has been moulded, framed and carried into successful execution by one of his countrymen, Mr. Hébert. It is a credit to Canadian art, and it shows he was a true Canadian when he felt his work a labour of love, and cut such a beautiful statue as I shall now have the pleasure of showing you. I think those who knew Sir George Cartier and were familiar with his features will acknowledge it is a fine portrait of the man. I can only conclude in the words of the song he used to sing to us so often when he was with us in society :—

“ ‘ Il y a longtemps que je t'aime,
Jamais je ne t'oublierai. ’ ”