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THE FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION

(Continued from page 14.)

Interest in him as a Father of Confederation centres around the fact that he loaned his name to the last of the coalition governments that tried to break the long series of deal-locks which preceded the first Confederation discussions. The Tache-Macdonald government was defeated after three months of existence and served to prove that united, could not carry on under the government machinery of the day. Hitherto similar governments had gone down and were replaced by another. The defeat of the Tache-Macdonald government was the end of a long series of experiments. Men who had been thinking about Confederation now spoke out called. The strenuous activities of the chairman of the conference were seen that his strength was ebbing. He retired to his home in Lower Canada and passed away in July of 1865.

Sir Etienne is a man in which the whole of Canada may take pride. He was born in the village of St. Thomas, Lower Canada, in 1795. Just thirty-two years after France renounced all claims to Canada. During his boyhood he came in contact with many persons who were antagonistic toward the British administration but he looked upon himself as British born. After the close of the war he took up the study of medicine and set himself up in his native village. During the troubled days that led up to the rebellion of 1837-8 he sympathized with those who were trying to secure political redress but when the movement turned to a force of arms he remained true to the government.

GEORGE BROWN

Many students of Canadian history declare that the Hon. George Brown was the real father of the Confederation movement in Canada. This is true insofar as the Confederation of 1864 and 1866 are concerned. These conferences ushered in Confederation but serious men had been talking of the idea of a closer union of the people of British North America as far back as 1831. But a vast amount of credit for the final movement must go to George Brown. He had been a member of the Union House which had seen no less than five governments rise and fall between May 21st, 1862 and July 1st, 1864. The rapid turnover was caused by the unbalanced distribution of seats that were held by members from Upper and Lower Canada. The situation was bringing about a condition of chaos. Trade and commerce were retarded and the bonds that had been issued by the Union Government were sinking. When these conditions had reached an alarming point, the member for Lanark, Alexander Morris, sounded the leader of the opposition, George Brown listened well and long to the scheme outlined by Mr. Morris for a federation of British colonies in North America. Mr. Morris was perhaps more concerned with the idea as a means of removing the embarrassing condition which had resulted from the inability of either party to form a strong union government. George Brown saw the proposition from a much broader standpoint. After adding several important details to the scheme as originally outlined by Mr. Morris, he approached leading men in the two parties of the house of 1864. The idea was warmly received and a coalition government formed between Upper and Lower Canada and the Maritimes. George Brown met with the great conference in Charlottetown in September of 1864, and the second one in Quebec.

George Brown was born in Edinburgh in 1818. His father, Peter Brown, was able to give the growing lad the advantages of a good education in his native city. The family circle was a most harmonious one. Men of letter and oratorical ability often met about the household fireplace and George Brown in his youth heard the topics of the day discussed freely by worthy and learned men. In 1838, when George Brown was twenty years of age the father became involved in a business adventure that miscarried. The bulk of his modest fortune was swept away and he determined to cross the Atlantic and start afresh. Father and son came first to New York where the elder Brown almost immediately received remunerative employment on a paper. Four years later father and son launched a paper of their own in New York State. This paper enjoyed a modest success and George Brown, in 1843 paid his first visit to Upper Canada with a view of ascertaining by what means his New York paper might gain a circulation there. During his tour through Upper Canada the young man became convinced that the country offered the virgin opportunities for an organ that would champion the cause of responsible government. Promise of support from so many and varied quarters sent him back to his father in New York in a highly speculative mood. A few months later father and son came to Toronto and commenced the publication of a weekly paper called the Banner. The venture was not a great success and in March of 1844 the son, George Brown, published the first number of the Globe. He entered political life in 1851.

The Hon. A. T. GALT
Alexander Tilloch Galt, considered as a Father of Confederation, has a background very different from the other outstanding figures who assembled around the historic conference tables and created the Dominion of Canada. He was connected with Canada's first real estate deal. A vast amount of central Ontario, including the cities of Guelph and Galt, were opened up and settled under his and his father's supervision. He was one, perhaps the only one of the Confederation Fathers, who came to Canada surrounded by vast wealth. He is also a splendid example of the old saying that a man may be down but not out. In this wonderful man the present day Canadians have an exhibit of a true Canadian. A man who did not whine and grumble when luck turned against him, but who dug in and fought off the hard luck and made his own way again. Mr. Galt was born in London, England in 1817. His father was very wealthy and was a successful author and social leader of the day. In 1823 the father induced several members of the London Stock Exchange to take shares in a great land speculation in Upper Canada. The idea was to acquire waste and forest lands and sell them to persons who would develop the land under the guidance of the company. The father came out to Upper Canada and purchased about three million acres of land. He directed the laying out of Guelph and spent money so lavishly that the company were soon in difficulties. The father was recalled and was declared insolvent. He turned again to literature and was able to establish his sons in business. Alexander made a fortune speculating in real estate in both Upper and Lower Canada. He also acted as the British America Land Company's order and dividends. He entered politics in 1849 but soon retired owing to the desire of directing all his energies to the promotion of early Canadian railways. Again his astute business mind resulted in an increased fortune and he again entered politics in 1853 and five years later he became Minister of Finance and introduced the decimal system of currency into Canada. He gave his entire energy to putting the public funds in order and when he was chosen to represent Upper Canada at the "Confederation conference" he was the "big business man" whose opinion was eagerly sought on all matters of future financial health. He had urged the idea of Confederation upon the British Authorities several years before the first conference was called. He was knighted in 1869 and came the first High Commissioner for Canada to Great Britain.

Canadian law. During the early days of these studies the rebellion of 1837 broke out and Oliver Mowat joined the volunteers in opposition to Mackenzie and Papineau. He served with Mr. Macdonald for four years and then came to Toronto to finish his studies and to be admitted to the bar. Fate had decreed that the connection between himself and his first employer should not cease with the removal of the younger man from Kingston; for some years later they met in the Union House as bitter political opponents. Oliver Mowat did not have the long and arduous climb to success which is so outstanding a factor in the story of other distinguished members of the bar who have climbed to ultimate fame. Almost at once he was admitted to a partnership in Toronto, which was highly successful from its inception. Numerous important and profitable cases were handled by the firm. So much so that when at the age of thirty-eight, when he first entered politics as the representative of the South Ontario, he was looked upon as a wealthy man. In a short newspaper account of his connection with Confederation we are not concerned with all the outstanding political events with which he was connected. Suffice it to mention that he was one of those whom George Brown turned to as a first lieutenant when he took the initial steps that led to the calling of Prince Edward Island conference in 1864. To Oliver Mowat at that time was entrusted the legal tangles that arose out of the jurisdiction of the province of Quebec. His great part was the guiding of the delegates away from the hidden rocks and shoals of defeat by possible illegal procedure.

A few weeks after the conference in Charlottetown, Mr. Mowat was appointed to an important judgeship in Upper Canada. He took to his other active part in the Confederation movement. He re-entered political life in 1872 when he became Attorney General of Upper Canada. During his term of office as premier, which lasted for many years, numerous reforms were introduced into the legal machinery of Ontario. The University of Toronto was extended in such a manner as to enable it to give practical instruction in engineering, mechanics and manufacturing. It was during his term of office in Ontario that voting by ballot was first introduced.

J. COCKBURN

The Hon. James Cockburn, a delegate from Upper Canada at the Quebec Conference in 1864 was very largely a product of the old Upper Canada College that stood on King Street West in the early days of Toronto. He was not a Canadian born. His parents resided at Berwick-on-Tweed and he was brought to Canada as a boy of thirteen and sent at once to that famous old institution of learning mentioned above. From that college he took up the study of law and opened an office in Cobourg, Upper Canada, (now Ontario). His clients were numerous and it was not until 1861, when the union parliament of Upper and Lower Canada was in a tight corner, that he seriously considered politics from a personal standpoint. In that year he was elected to represent the west riding of Northumberland. It was a period when administrations were changing rapidly. In one of these administrations he held the post of solicitor-general and so impressed certain of the great leaders of the day with his tact and kindness that he was one of the first to be consulted on the proposed confederation. He championed the cause from the first suggestion and was asked to go with the other seven gentlemen who would speak for Upper Canada at Quebec.

He does not appear to have taken any active interest in the proposed union but in 1867, when the first federal parliament was called together at Ottawa, he was chosen as Speaker. He held the important post of Speaker for the federal House of Commons for several years. Documents that throw light on the deliberations of that period tend to show that his great tact and diplomacy did much to give Confederation a good start and to establish a very high tradition for the office of speaker. He retired from active political life in 1874 and settled in Ottawa. He lived not only to enjoy a few years of well learned rest but also to see many of the evil predictions that had been made for Confederation set aside as political jokes. He died at Ottawa in 1883.

R. B. DICKET

Robert Barry Dicket (the name is of French origin and is pronounced Dickey) was perhaps the only one of the Confederation Fathers who voted strongly against the proposition as outlined at Quebec in September of 1864 and then went home to Nova Scotia and changed his mind and became a most ardent supporter of the proposal. A study of the life of this remarkable man tends to indicate that Canada had statesmen many years ago who did their own thinking — men who arrived at their own conclusions and stuck regardless of the consequences. When he arrived back in Halifax after the Quebec conference he was hailed as a hero because he had flatly refused to subscribe to the articles of the proposed confederation. He was feted and cheered by the anti-confederationists but he did not turn a deaf ear to the arguments that were being put forth by the Confederationists, led by men like Archibald, Henry Tupper and McCully. The arguments of the Confederationists must have been pretty sound to win over a clever lawyer like the subject of this sketch. In 1866 he was an out and out champion for confederation and was appointed to the first Canadian

law. During the early days of these studies the rebellion of 1837 broke out and Oliver Mowat joined the volunteers in opposition to Mackenzie and Papineau. He served with Mr. Macdonald for four years and then came to Toronto to finish his studies and to be admitted to the bar. Fate had decreed that the connection between himself and his first employer should not cease with the removal of the younger man from Kingston; for some years later they met in the Union House as bitter political opponents. Oliver Mowat did not have the long and arduous climb to success which is so outstanding a factor in the story of other distinguished members of the bar who have climbed to ultimate fame. Almost at once he was admitted to a partnership in Toronto, which was highly successful from its inception. Numerous important and profitable cases were handled by the firm. So much so that when at the age of thirty-eight, when he first entered politics as the representative of the South Ontario, he was looked upon as a wealthy man. In a short newspaper account of his connection with Confederation we are not concerned with all the outstanding political events with which he was connected. Suffice it to mention that he was one of those whom George Brown turned to as a first lieutenant when he took the initial steps that led to the calling of Prince Edward Island conference in 1864. To Oliver Mowat at that time was entrusted the legal tangles that arose out of the jurisdiction of the province of Quebec. His great part was the guiding of the delegates away from the hidden rocks and shoals of defeat by possible illegal procedure.

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The Hon. Peter Mitchell, the leader of the Confederation delegates that came to Charlottetown, is the man to whom Canada is very deeply indebted for the general style of the federal system of government which has been in operation for the past sixty years. He was a member of the party that visited England to frame and assist with the British North America Act. In addition he gave weeks of time to a study and report on the minute workings of the proposed government after the four colonies were united. He was a great worker for the Confederation scheme. To those who have made but a superficial study of history of the eastern portion of Canada, it will be recalled that a wave of sentiment swept over New Brunswick over the matter of the proposed union. A previous sketch in this series has told how the Tilley government was defeated on the issue. The anti-confederationists, brought on a new election and found himself the prime minister of New Brunswick in 1865. It was a critical time and he deserves to go on record as a great statesman for the methods he used in handling a very difficult situation. He was a native son of New Brunswick. He was born at Newcastle in 1824. Like so many others of the future Fathers of Confederation, he turned to the law as a profession. From the law he entered politics. From the first suggestions of a federated British North America he was a champion of the cause. Through bitterness and strife he managed to keep the basic facts of the great forward movement before the electors. He was the first minister of Marine and Fisheries. A story is told of how some of his political enemies taunted him with being a fat job with it. He met the taunt by resigning his portfolio and his seat in the senate in 1892. He then returned to his old riding of Northumberland in New Brunswick and ran for a seat in the federal House of Commons. He was elected by a large majority although he ran as an independent and did not seek parties. He did not again enter the cabinet at Ottawa as he was appointed to the editorial chair of the Montreal Herald a few months after this stirring event. He afterwards became the owner of that paper. He lived to almost the closing year of the last century, and died in Montreal in 1899.

Oliver Mowat was one of the few fathers of Confederation that could claim Canada as his birthplace. His father was a Scottish soldier who had served throughout the Peninsular War and who had come to Canada just as the war of 1812 was closing. This gentleman was born in Kingston and Oliver Mowat, the eldest of five children, arrived in July of 1820. His father opened a retail store in Kingston but the eldest son did not crave for a mercantile career. At the age of sixteen he became the first clerk of the famous Sir John A. Macdonald and applied himself vigorously to the study of British and

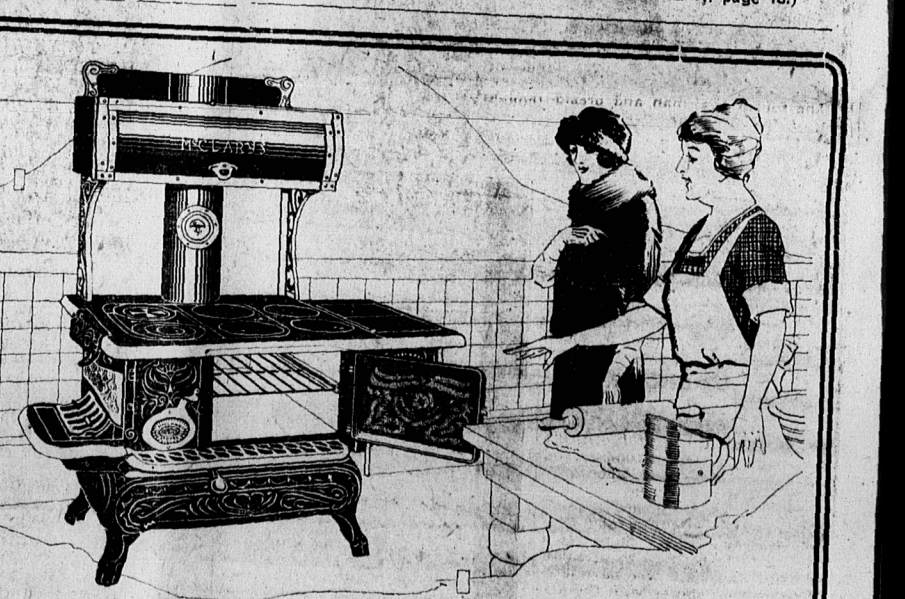


Driving the Last Spike
On November 7th, 1885, Lord Strathcona, then Donald A. Smith, drove the last spike that completed the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Mr. Henry, and the ringing of his hammer against the steel sounded the note that marked the successful consummation of Confederation.

He was a native of Nova Scotia and was born in Amherst in 1811. Very early in life his parents decided that he should prepare himself for the law. He was given a liberal education in the colleges of the east. He passed all the requirements for legal practice in Nova Scotia and then prepared himself to conduct legal affairs in New Brunswick also. He entered politics in 1858. After Confederation had become a realization Mr. Dicket does not appear to have taken a very prominent part in the politics and policies of the period. His legal practice required a great deal of his personal attention and he was a man who deeply appreciated his home and family. Some historians have suggested that the seat in the Senate was probably looked upon both by the holder and the Government as a reward for the noble stand he had taken in Nova Scotia. He lived to a good old age, dying at the age of ninety-two years in 1903.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER
Sir Charles Tupper is an outstanding example of the diversified professions and callings of the lot of the fathers of Confederation. He was a medical doctor, a native son of Amherst, Nova Scotia, and a member of the famous Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. His family were of U. E. L. stock and before coming to Virginia they had made their home in the Island of Guernsey. A connection had been made between the Tappers and the Brock family to which Sir Isaac Brock belonged. Surely no one who worked so hard for a more united Canada could produce better credentials than those which were brought to the cause by Sir Charles Tupper when he entered political life as the representative of Cumberland county in Nova Scotia in 1855. It was his first serious political move and his opponent was the Hon. Joseph Howe. It was a very bitter campaign. In 1856 he was appointed to the post of Provincial Secretary. It was in the year 1858 that he first became deeply interested in the matter of a closer union amongst the people of British North America. In that year, the third of his active and useful political activities, he went across the ocean with certain gentlemen from New Brunswick to discuss with the Imperial authorities the topic of the proposed construction of the Intercolonial railway. He remained in London for several months going deeply into the topic with leading British statesmen, with the result that when the first great conference was called in Charlottetown in 1864 there was no one who had a better first hand knowledge of the attitude of the Imperial authorities on this topic than had Sir Charles Tupper. In 1864 he became premier of his native province, Nova Scotia. The story of Confederation as studied through Nova Scotia is a little different to the general trend of the story in the other provinces. There was a certain amount of opposition to the project at the first. In a short account of the leading men of this great movement space does not permit a full description of this opposition. Some historians are of the opinion that it was not so much an opposition to the project as it was to the man himself. One of his first acts after becoming premier was to put in force certain far reaching reforms to the school laws of Nova Scotia. In a short time the application of these reforms had achieved great good; but like many other great reforms they were not looked upon with general favor at the time. After passing the School Law Bill he next moved a resolution to send delegates to the proposed conference in Charlottetown. He was

(Continued on page 18.)



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