

Canada in the House were the chief causes for the schism in the party which resulted in the retirement of these leaders from public life in 1851. During all the rapid Government changes of the next ten years Mr. Mackenzie, by this time an honored member of the Reform party, stood firm for the principles of the party rather than for any leader.

In June, 1861, Mr. Mackenzie was first returned to Parliament as member for the County of Lambton, and at once took a prominent place in the House. He was already favorably known as the editor for some time of, and a writer of keen criticisms of things political in *The Lambton Shield*, and he speedily added to this a reputation as one of the best-informed men in the House on all matters of political science.

The Sandfield Macdonald-Sicotte Administration of 1862 received the support of Mr. Mackenzie as one likely to advance the interest of the Provinces. In the following year the first organized effort toward a federation of the Provinces was made in Parliament, and Mr. Mackenzie made an earnest effort to secure the adoption by consent of all parties of the Federal constitution, which promised to end the injustice suffered by Upper Canada and give representation by population instead of leaving the balance of power permanently with the Lower Canadian members.

#### THE COALITION.

It was with great reluctance that he consented to the coalition Ministry that was then formed. The course he advised was that no Reformer should enter the Cabinet but that outside support should be given the Ministry until such time as a new constitution could be formulated. Upon the resignation of Hon. George Brown from the Ministry Mr. Mackenzie was invited to enter the coalition Cabinet but he declined and supported Mr. Brown in his course. Meanwhile amid the changes and chances of party warfare, a united Dominion, consisting of all the British American Provinces, was in process of formation, and every step toward this end received the hearty endorsement of Mr. Mackenzie. The end of all the labor spent came with the British North America Act of 1867. But before the first election for the Dominion Parliament in 1867 the member for Lambton added honor to his name by his thorough work as chairman of the House Committee on Municipal Law and the framer of the general act respecting municipal government in Upper Canada. He decided to contest his old seat for the Dominion House and was elected, sitting for the constituency of Lambton until 1882, when he was first returned for East York.

#### DUAL REPRESENTATION.

The period immediately succeeding the formation of the first Dominion Government was one of great political activity. Dozens of members of the Federal House were also members of the various Provincial Legislatures, and in Ontario especially the system of dual representation enabled the Provincial Ministers to sit at Ottawa as supporters of the Conservative Administration, and as a consequence there was grave danger of the acts of the Provincial House becoming a sort of pocket edition of the laws passed by the larger body at the capital. The coalition Ministry of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald was in power in Ontario, and when the Provincial elections of 1871 came on Mr. Mackenzie was prevailed upon to become a candidate and aid in the overthrow of the accommodating Ministry, which was sore pressed by Mr. Blake, then leader of the Provincial Reform party. Mr. Mackenzie ran for West Middlesex, and was successful in wresting the seat from a Government supporter.

The Legislature met in December, and there was a general attack all along the line, with the result that the Sandfield Macdonald Government resigned and Mr. Blake became the leader of the new Reform Ministry that has, with changes in

the personnel of the Cabinet, held power ever since. Mr. Mackenzie accepted the portfolio of Provincial Secretary in the new Ministry, and subsequently became Provincial Treasurer. During the short time he occupied this office he gave evidence of great knowledge of the financial affairs of the Province, and his budget speech of 1872 attracted general attention. In October of the same year Mr. Blake and Mr. Mackenzie retired from Provincial politics with the intention of devoting their labors exclusively to the Federal sphere.

#### SINCE CONFEDERATION.

The first Dominion Parliament assembled in 1867, and Mr. Mackenzie became de facto leader of the Ontario Liberals. He was not elected to that position. Indeed he did not desire to be elected to it. He developed into the leader of the party. Always well posted; always thoroughly conversant with the history and merits of the different questions before the House; always ready in debate to drive the right nail to its right place; always up to the mark as a member of the leading committees; always alert for the public interest; always firm and cool in the face of the enemy, and always ready to give younger members the benefit of his longer Parliamentary experience, it gradually and naturally came about that Mr. Mackenzie became first tacitly and then by formal election leader of the Liberal party. When the Government of Sir John Macdonald fell overwhelmed with the Pacific scandal there was none to dispute Mr. Mackenzie's title to the Premiership of the Dominion. Under Mr. Mackenzie's administration a number of highly valuable measures were placed upon the statute book. One of the first acts was a complete election law for the whole Dominion, including voting by ballot, abolition of property qualification of members, etc. The state of the revenue compelled a revision of the tariff. The Militia Department was reorganized and the Royal Military College was established at Kingston. The organization of the Northwest was provided for; a Supreme Court was established; the postal service was amended and improved; provision was made for the more effectual inspection of produce and weights and measures; the administration of the penitentiaries was improved; the rights of British authors and the interests of Canadian publishers were reconciled in an amended copyright law; immigration received careful attention and encouragement, and public works necessary for the growing interests of the country were carried out; the confidence of the British public in the prosperity and financial credit of the Dominion was proved by the highly advantageous terms on which two large loans were placed upon the London markets; a just and conciliatory policy was adopted towards British Columbia, where irritation arose out of the delay in constructing the Canadian Pacific; a fair representation of Canadian industry at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia was made; the Scott Act was passed to diminish the evils of intemperance. In addition two very important questions which agitated the public mind and for a time threatened the gravest complications, the Manitoba amnesty and the New Brunswick school question, were satisfactorily adjusted.

#### HONORED AT HOME.

In the summer of 1875 Mr. Mackenzie returned to his native land on a visit. He was welcomed everywhere by persons of all ranks with marked distinction and cordiality. His reception by her Majesty at Windsor Castle was most gratifying. But when he went north the enthusiasm of the Scots was thoroughly aroused, and they came out to welcome their distinguished countryman in true Highland style. The demonstrations at Dunkeld and Logie-rait were memorable events, and the presentation to him of the freedom of the City of Perth and of the Town of Dundee, the public receptions at these places and at Greenock, Ayrshire and