

Supplement to Canadian Champion.

SIR JOHN'S LAST HOURS

Life Slowly But Surely Ebbing Away.

THE PREMIER'S CAREER.

Characteristics of Canada's Greatest Politician—Sketch of a Wonderful Life—Wherein Lay the Secret of His Power

In harness till the last sorrow in the death chamber at Earncliffe—The turmoil of the House of Commons silenced when the news is announced.

TORONTO, June 3.—At the present moment Sir John Macdonald, the beside of Sir John is surrounded by weary and anxious friends, who are anxiously expecting the entrance of the Messenger of Death with his deadly summons. Before ten lines are seen in print the end will probably have arrived, and the great and much-loved Sir John will have become a matter of history. The latest bulletin says the desperate struggle with death is all but over.

The First Intimation in the House.

On Friday night last the Commons was engaged in a fierce party conflict. The conduct of Sir Charles Tupper during the recent session was the occasion of vehement philippic from the mouths of Liberal leaders, the heat and clamor of the scene was suddenly broken upon by an ominous silence. A note had been handed to Sir Hector Langevin, and he passed it to Mr. Foster, who read it and handed it to Mr. Powell. There it passed to Sir John Thompson, who gave it to Mr. Haggart and then to Mr. Dewdney read it together. It went to Sir Adolphe and then to Mr. C. F. Tupper. The facts of the Ministers showed that the letter contained distressing news, and was evidence that the end of Sir John's life was near.

The second bulletin of the day, which was a more detailed account of the illness, was published in the afternoon. It stated that Sir John was suffering from a severe attack of pneumonia, and that his condition was such that death was not far distant. The news was received with a shock in the House, and many of the members were seen to be weeping.

The illness of Sir John was the result of a long and arduous career. He had spent many years in the public service, and had won a high reputation for his ability and integrity. He was a man of great energy and determination, and he had always been a strong supporter of the Conservative party.

At 9 o'clock, it may be mentioned, a message of a disturbing character had also been received by the Cabinet from the room at Earncliffe, and Ministers were in a measure prepared for this final blow. Just before this message was delivered to the Ministers the House had sunk into a quiet state, while Mr. Mackintosh read newspaper extracts incidental to the line of his argument. Sir John Thompson passed down to the seat beside Mr. Foster, and the dying leader's chair, and then the Ministers on the front benches whispered together for a moment. An intimation was conveyed to Mr. Mackintosh to cease speaking, and the chamber resounded to anxious inquiries as Sir Hector Langevin rose in his seat. There were marks of sorrow on his face and his voice was low and tremulous, as he told the House the intelligence, which seemed to be given additional gravity by its announcement in Parliament.

Standing beside the vacant chair of the Premier, Sir Hector said: "We have known that for the last few days the Premier has been lying at his residence. I have the painful duty to announce to the House that the news from Earncliffe just received is that the First Minister has had a relapse and that he is in a most critical condition. We have reports from the medical men in attendance on the right hon. gentleman, and they do not seem to believe that he can live many hours longer. Under these circumstances I will move, seconded by Mr. Laurier, that this debate be now adjourned."

When Mr. Laurier rose all eyes were turned towards him. "Mr. Speaker," he said, "under such circumstances it is a painful duty to me to second the motion of the hon. gentleman. The country will, of course, be shocked to hear the sad news, and I am sure it will not be possible to proceed with business further. I second the motion."

Sir Hector then moved the adjournment of the House, seconded by Mr. Laurier. The members moved hurriedly from their places and around Sir Hector to question him whether he had any further intelligence and then stood about in groups and in subdued voices talked of the news. The voice of criticism was hushed and human brotherhood reigned. Up to midnight the telegraph offices were crowded, and messages were flashed from end to end of the Dominion, across the continent and by cable to England.

The House resumed its evening session in the hope that the midnight consultation would reveal still more improvement. Unhappily, almost at the same moment Sir John was suffering one of those dreadful re-

apses which accompany the malady. At midnight this bulletin was issued: "Earncliffe, midnight.—The Premier passed a quiet day, without notable change, till 7 o'clock evening. Since that time he has shown signs of great prostration, evidenced by perspiration and a labored respiration numbering 50 per minute; pulse 150, weak and irregular. Took 200 grains morphia at 9 p.m." (Signed) R. W. POWELL, J. A. GRANT, H. F. WRIGHT.

The great prostration on a joyful night is indicative of the exhaustion of the Premier. His nourishment was changed to diluted with apollinaris. Lord Stanley walked over from Rideau Hall about 10 o'clock and remained until the bulletin was issued. At 3 a.m. the condition of the Premier was much the same. The respiration continued. The breathing was rough at times and almost labored. He still retained consciousness. The action of the heart was weak and irregular and heart failure was feared. A man who has not left the sick bed since Friday is Stewart, the male nurse, who was for a time connected with the Montreal General Hospital. Stewart is on duty night and day, and attends to the wants of the ill and almost always by his husband's side. When Sir John has to be turned in his bed Stewart moves him, but Lady Macdonald is also on hand to see that nothing is done to disturb the patient. Stewart says that Sir John has not lost any weight, and that he must weigh from 165 to 170 pounds.

It is now learned that Sir John Macdonald had an attack of what was dangerously like paralysis two weeks ago. He was in his own room in the House of Commons when the attack occurred, and became partially unconscious and almost speechless. Sir John Thompson was with him at the time, and when the Premier revived in a few minutes requested the Minister of Justice to go to the Governor-General and keep an appointment which the Premier had made with His Excellency for that hour. Sir John Thompson was reluctant to leave him, but the Premier insisted that he was all right again, in fact he afterwards walked part of the way to the cab in which he drove to Earncliffe. As the Premier's illness increased, and he still went to his office in the Department of Railways and Canals, Sir John Thompson recommended that he be asked him to give up the portfolio, and take that of President of the Council, which was vacant. He renewed the suggestion as late as Thursday last—the day before the fatal stroke, and the Premier said to him, "I'll let you know to-morrow what I will do." Too late, for that to-morrow never came.

The Queen's Message.

Sir John was lying awake when the first message of sympathy from Her Majesty came. Lady Macdonald, bending her silvered head close down beside the patient, whispered in his ear the words of consolation from the Queen. Those who watched him will never forget the bright, happy smile which lit up his face. He nodded slightly, and in a moment or two was asleep again. A telegram tendering the sympathy of Lord Salisbury was received later on. He heard this, with evident pleasure. To-day Lord Stanley received this telegram: BALMORAL, June 2. R. V. L. Sir John's illness referred to in the British House of Commons.

LONDON, June 3.—Sir John Macdonald's illness called forth a graceful tribute in the House of Commons last night from Mr. W. H. Smith. "Sir John Macdonald," said the First Lord of the Treasury, "is a man who, however his party conduct may be viewed, has earned the respect and admiration of all who know the services he has rendered to the Dominion and the empire. There can be but one feeling of deep sorrow that a life so valuable seems about to end."

Sir William Vernon Harcourt, Sta vely Hill and Joseph Chamberlain joined the tributes to Sir John Macdonald, whose death they all said would be an international loss. The House generally showed keen sympathy with Canada. The Daily Chronicle devotes the first leader to Sir John Macdonald and speaks highly of his services to the Empire. It thinks that his program will suffice to keep the present Parliament at Ottawa active for some years and says that the choice of a leader like Sir John Charles Tupper and Sir John Thompson.

SIR JOHN'S CAREER.

His Life for 50 Years Back is a History of the Country.

John Alexander Macdonald was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on January 11, 1813. He was second son of Mr. Hugh Macdonald of Dornoch, Sutherlandshire, but who, when John A. was aged 5 years, removed to Canada. This was during the great emigration movement of 1820. The family settled at Kingston, which was then the most important town in Upper Canada, and after residing there for upwards of four years removed to Quinte Bay, leaving John Alexander—then in his tenth year—at

Sir John's early life was spent in a school in Kingston. At the Royal Grammar School he remained until his sixteenth year, when his father sent him to the University of Glasgow, where he took a degree in law. He returned to Canada in 1833, and was called to the bar in 1835. He was then engaged in the law for several years, but he was not long in becoming interested in politics. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1837, and he was not long in becoming one of the leaders of the Conservative party.

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