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E. SLINNEY

The Tragic Life Story of D'Arcy McGee, One Of The Fathers of Confederation

Termed "The Most Eloquent Defender of British
Rule on the Face of the Globe."

Political biography holds little more tragic than the story of D'Arcy McGee, born at Carlingford, Ireland in 1825, poet, orator and journalist at the age of eighteen, Young Ireland rebel and fugitive from the British Government in 1848, tribune of his people in the anti-Irish agitations in America in the 50's, McGee lived to become one of the Fathers of Confederation and, in 1868, when he was at the zenith of his power, and when in the words of Lord Mayo, he had become "the most eloquent defender of British rule on the face of the globe," he fell in Ottawa by an assassin's hand.

McGee's early mind was nourished in a revolutionary Irish school. He had been a follower of O'Connell, but when the light of the "Liberator" waned McGee joined The Nation, a newspaper which made the written word a power in Ireland and awakened a new spirit of Celtic nationality. His colleagues were John Mitchell, an uncompromising rebel, Thomas Davis, famous as essayist and poet, Charles Gavin Duffy, who lived to become Prime Minister in Australia and Thomas Francis Meagher—"Meagher of the Sword," who later won fame and glory in the American Civil War. Their object was the overthrow of British rule by resort to violence. No more brilliant band of young enthusiasts ever battled for a cause in any land, but it was the old Irish story of forlorn effort, of crushing disaster and of miserable defeat. With a price upon his head, and after stirring adventures McGee escaped to America.

The native American party, antagonistic to the Irish was then at the flood tide of its power and from it McGee imbibed a keen dislike for republicanism. On a lecture tour through Canada he was struck with the wide measure of liberty enjoyed by his church and his race under British rule, and, in 1858, after having passed through a number of journalistic ventures and memorable controversies under the Stars and Stripes he turned once more to the British flag and came to Montreal. McGee's expansive intellect with its historic sweep, immediately visualized the

need of Canadian federation. He caught at once the vision of a great Confederation—the union of our provinces in a federal system; and in 1860, years before many contemporary statesmen had even dreamed of Confederation he made this prophetic utterance:—

"I see in the remote distance one great nationality bound like the shield of Achilles by the blue rim of the ocean. I see within the round of that shield the peaks of the western mountains and the crests of the eastern waves, the winding Assiniboine, the five-fold lakes, the St. Lawrence, the Saguenay, the St. John, the Basin of Minas. By all these flowing waters in all the valleys they fertilize in all the cities they visit in their courses, I see a generation of industrious, contented, moral men, free in name and in fact—men capable of maintaining in peace and in war, a constitution worthy of such a country.

The years that followed saw McGee in opposition to the Cartier-Macdonald administration, a member of the Sandfield Macdonald-Scotte Government, the Minister of Agriculture in the cabinet of Sir E. P. Tache. But it was as the prophet of Confederation that he became best known. His was the sweep and range of mind which germinated the idea; his eloquent pen and tongue which fastened it upon the consciousness of the disunited provinces; and to the very end, when faint hearts contributed but doubts and fears, his was the voice that soared most confidently and persuasively on to the final victory. Without the statesmanship of Macdonald, the patriotism of Cartier, and the moral courage of Brown, union could not have been achieved, but it still stands true that without the vision and eloquence of McGee their cooperation could not have been secured. "It was D'Arcy McGee," declared Arthur Meighen, "who was the triumphant missionary of Union.

On the night of April 7, 1868, McGee left the House of Commons of the nation he had helped to create to go to his home and was struck down by a member of the Fenian Brotherhood whose enmity he had invited by his patriotism.

Buttonville

The Women's Institute of Buttonville was invited to a meeting held at the home of Mrs. Col. F. H. Deacon Unionville and a very sociable time was spent, on Wednesday June 15.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Hood and Mr. and Mrs. J. Atkinson have taken a motor trip to Syracuse, New York to visit Mr. Gordon Hood.

Mrs. and Mr. Dyke of Sharon visited Mr. H. Hoopers on Thursday afternoon.

Unionville public school played a friendly game of baseball with Buttonville public school on Thursday evening. The visitors won 23 to 15.

Buttonville baseball team has joined the league again this year. The following are Buttonville's schedule of games.

June 21—Buttonville at Unionville.
June 23—Locust Hill at Buttonville.
June 28—Buttonville at Victoria Sq.
June 30—Brown's C'ners at Buttonville
July 5—Rinkey Dinks at Buttonville

Mr. and Mrs. H. Hooper accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. J. Lunan of Unionville visited friends at Stouffville on Sunday.

Miss Kate Craig who is at present a nurse in Buffalo is spending her vacation under the parental roof.

A number from this vicinity attended Victoria Square picnic and Sunday services. Mr. A. Meyer gave an address on Sunday afternoon to the Sunday school.

Mr. Charles Hooper and Mr. Douglas Brown and lady friends "took in" the barn dance at Mr. Neilson's near Malvern, Friday evening, June 17.

A dance was held in Buttonville Hall, Wednesday evening, June 15, and was well patronized. Macdonald's orchestra was in attendance.

King City

Sir Henry and Lady Pellatt will receive at Lake Marie Farm on Saturday afternoon, June 25 from four to seven o'clock.

A large gathering is expected and all of the friends of the happy couple are invited, though there will be no formal invitations. The estate is one of the most beautiful in the Dominion. It is probable that the band of the Queen's Own Rifles, Sir Henry's Regiment will provide the music.

Willie—"Hello; why are you standing here in front of the office you got fired from last week? Waitin' to be taken back?"

Jimmie—"Not much; I just wanted to see if they were still in business."

General News and Views

Lots of Jobs For Lindy
Lindbergh the trans-Atlantic flier apparently has no need to worry about money for the future despite his declaration in France that he intended 000 a year to take charge of all flying air mails. He has been offered \$100,000 a year to take charge of all flying activities of the American Society for the Promotion of Aviation and could take his choice of several movie contracts that would net him a million dollars for one year's work.

Expect Big Strawberry Crop
Strawberry producers and fruit officials of the Provincial and Federal governments estimate that this year's strawberry crop will be one of the largest on record. The record strawberry shipment from British Columbia to the Prairies of Western Canada was in 1921 when 130 cars were shipped by British Columbia growers. This year the estimate is 114 cars, not including less than carload shipments, which are much heavier nowadays.

Government permits are \$2, cash, government liquors are also cash, but groceries, boots and shoes and other necessities of life, and gas too—well they can be charged.

At the last special meeting of the Markham Township Council by-laws were passed appointing James Clayton and Percival Petch, township constables at a salary of \$25 per month for eight months from May 1 to Dec. 1 \$10 per month for the remaining four months and 10 cents per mile mileage while in the discharge of their duties; their duties to include the enforcement of the Ontario Liquor Act as well as of enforcing law and order in the township. Also appointing Jas. Clayton truant officer at \$10 a year and 10 cents per mile mileage and also appointing Lorne Middleton and Percival Petch inspectors of noxious weeds at \$10 per year cash and 10 cents a mile with power and duties as set out in the statutes.

Oak Ridges

Sunday School, 10 a.m., Holy communion, 11 a.m., preacher, Rev. P. R. Soanes. Daylight saving time.

St. John's Parish Hall—Sunday school 2 p.m., evening prayer, 7 p.m. Preacher, Rev. H. Burnyeat. Standard time.

Story of Confederation in Bronze.



1. Alexander Mackenzie
2. George Brown
3. Queen Victoria
4. D'Arcy McGee
5. Georges-Etienne Cartier
6. John A. Macdonald
7. Lafontaine and Baldwin

Memorials on Parliament Hill, Ottawa, of those Great Figures in Canadian Life Whose Efforts Have Resulted in the United Canada, the Sixtieth Anniversary of whose Birth will be Celebrated July 1.