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Sir George W. Ross Was a Man of Many Talents

He Was Equally Brilliant as Statesman, Legislator, Debater, Orator and Able Educationist.

Although a Life-Long Liberal He Had the Courage to Stand Out Against the Opinion of His Colleagues.

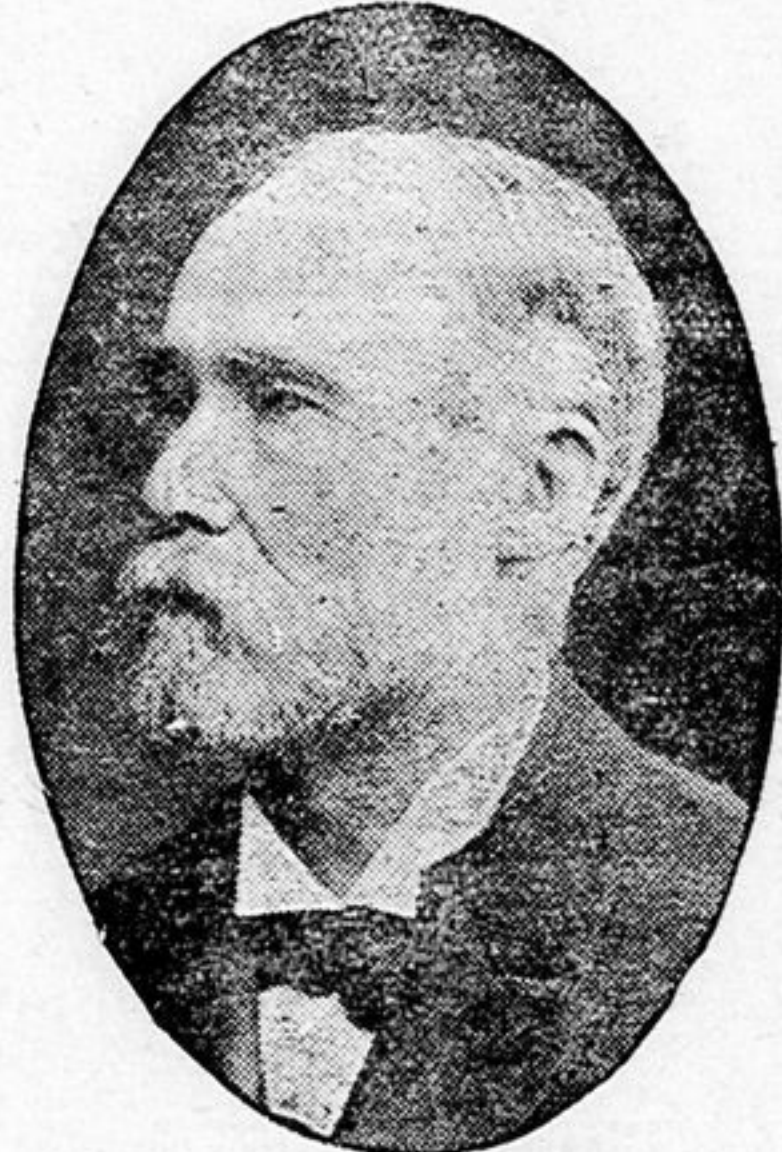
By the death of Sir George W. Ross Canada loses one of her most brilliant and many-sided statesmen, an author, a finished orator, and an educationist of wide note. His versatility and skill in everything he essayed was long a subject for admiration and emulation in political ranks, and his passing takes from the life of the country one of the ablest Scotsmen in a people whose north Britons have been one of her chief glories.

Sir George William Ross was in his busy lifetime leader of the Senate for years, a member of Parliament in the early days of Canadian Confederation, Minister of Education of Ontario, Premier of Ontario, a charter member and fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and first president of the Authors Society.

Sir George Ross was the son of the late James Ross, who, with his wife, Ellen McKinnon, both natives of Ross-shire, Scotland, came to Canada in 1832. Sir George was born near Nairn, County Middlesex, Ont., in 1841, and received his early education in the public schools. After receiving a first-class county board certificate empowering him to teach, he took a course at the Normal School, Toronto, and left it with a first-class provincial certificate. At a later period he matriculated in law at Albert University, graduated LL.B., 1883, and was called to the Bar in 1887.

SCHOOL INSPECTOR.

In 1871 he was appointed inspector of public schools for the County of Lambton and acted subsequently in a similar capacity for the Towns of Petrolia and Strathroy. When the establishment of additional normal schools was agitated in Ontario he took a leading part in the creation of the county model school system. After their organization he prepared a syllabus of lectures for their direc-



SIR GEORGE W. ROSS.

tion and filled the position of inspector. From 1876 to 1880 he was a member of the central committee of examiners. He steadily contended for the uniformity of text books and favored the limiting of normal schools to professional work. A Liberal in politics, he was elected in that interest to the House of Commons for West Middlesex at the general election in 1872, and continued the representative of that riding at Ottawa up to November, 1883, when he entered the administration of Sir Oliver Mowat in Ontario as Minister of Education. This office he retained under the late Hon. A. S. Hardy, and was also a member for West Middlesex in the Legislature. He devoted some years to journalistic work, being at one time editor of The Strathroy Age, and at another time part proprietor of The Huron Examiner. He was also the conductor of The Ontario Teacher, a publication which proved of great service to educationists in all parts of the province.

STRONG TEMPERANCE WORKER.

For many years he was prominently identified with the temperance cause. He was elected most worthy patriarch of the Sons of Temperance of North America in 1879; founded the Temperance Colonization Company in 1882; attended the British and Colonial Temperance Congress, held in London in 1886; was elected president of the Temperance & General Life Assurance Co., 1885, and was elected a vice-president of the Ontario Prohibition Alliance in 1896.

As a legislator and administrator, his record was one of no little activity. In 1885 he introduced a bill in the Ontario Legislature providing for the consolidation of the Public Schools Act, the Separate Schools Act, and the act respecting Mechanics' Institutes. In 1887 he introduced a bill authorizing the federation of the University of Toronto, and the affiliation of the denominational colleges with that institution. He was also responsible for placing upon the statute book an act respecting truancy and compulsory attendance at school.

REPUTATION AS WRITER.

He also enjoyed a reputation as a writer in conjunction with Mr. W. n.

Works," published by the D. Appleton Co., New York; "A Report of the Schools of England and Germany" and "Patriotic Recitations for the Use of Schools and Colleges." In 1893 he was appointed chairman of the committee having for its object the preparation of a history of Canada for the use of the schools of this country, and, in 1897, served as a vice-president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. He was also president for some years of the Dominion Educational Association.

HONORED BY UNIVERSITIES.

For his services in behalf of education, he received the honorary degree of LL.D. from St. Andrew's University, Scotland, in 1888. The same honor was conferred upon him by Victoria University, Toronto, in 1892, and by the University of Toronto in 1894. In 1896 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and in the same year was appointed one of the commissioners for the revision of the Ontario Statutes. He was a member of the council of the Toronto Astronomical and Physical Society, and was likewise interested in the Dominion Sanitarium Association, of which he was one of the founders. In 1886 he served as a commissioner to the Indian and Colonial Exhibition, held in London.

Sir George Ross was a member of the Government of Sir Oliver Mowat as Minister of Education from 1883 to 1896, and also served his province in the same capacity in the Hardy administration from July 25, 1896, to Oct. 18, 1899. On the resignation of Mr. Hardy, Sir George Ross took up the reins of Government on Oct. 21, 1899, and continued as Premier with a working majority until the dissolution of the House on April 19, 1902. On going to the country on May 29, 1902, Sir George was sustained by a small majority. On June 26, 1903, the Government, on a motion censuring R. R. Gamey, M.P.P., was sustained by a majority of 4. When the House dissolved on Dec. 13, 1904, the standing of the parties was as follows: Liberals 45, Conservatives 45, vacant 7. The result of the general election on Jan. 25, 1905, was as follows: Conservatives 69, Liberals 29.

OPPOSITION LEADER

AND SENATOR.

Sir George was for nearly two years as leader of his party in the Opposition benches. He was made a Senator of Canada on Jan. 15, 1907, but throughout most of his term as Senator he took a passive interest in state affairs. Later he was elected leader of the Senate.

As a public speaker Sir George Ross took high rank. Among the best known of his lectures were the following: "Literary Factory in Our Canadian Life," "Formative Forces of Canadian History," "Our National Outlook," "Citizenship and Higher Culture" and "Preferential Trade."

He was a Presbyterian in religion and held the office of elder in St. Andrew's Church, Toronto. In 1896 he was elected a delegate from the general assembly of Canada to the Pan-Presbyterian Conference, held that year in Glasgow.

In the Dominion election campaign of 1911 Sir George Ross was one of the prominent Liberals who opposed the entering into a reciprocity pact with the United States of America. Sir George delivered an address before the Toronto Board of Trade and wrote two letters to The Toronto Globe dealing with Canadian commercial systems. He then advanced strong grounds against the completion of reciprocity negotiations and in favor of closer Imperial and reciprocal trade relations. The address was printed and circulated throughout Canada by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association as a document against reciprocity, and it was quoted by many Conservative speakers in the debate on reciprocity in the House of Commons. He said that the British preference and reciprocity were mutually hostile. So much use was made of these arguments in the Commons that it was asserted by some of the Liberals who supported the then Government, that Sir George Ross could not see beyond the bounds of Ontario. Some curiosity was felt as to the course Sir George would take after Sir Wilfrid Laurier brought down the reciprocity measure. Sir George did not have to declare himself in the Senate, for the bill never reached that chamber, and he took no part in the discussion of the subject on the hustings.

LEADER OF THE SENATE.

On Nov. 26, 1912, in the Dominion Senate, Sir George Ross, as the newly-appointed leader, delivered his first address, dealing in it with the question of Canadian support to Great Britain in the naval crisis. Sir George, on a motion in reply to the address from the throne, spoke for a Canadian navy, created by Canadians and manned by Canadians.

Sir George Ross was knighted in 1907. Temperance people will remember him as the first recognized leader of the temperance party in Parliament.

In June, 1913, his "Reminiscences of the Political History of the Dominion" was published. In these pages he presented himself a close

Edward Blake, Sir Alexander Macenzie, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Charles Tupper and Sir Richard Cartwright are among the many prominent politicians who come under review.

Sir George was thrice married—first to Christina, daughter of Duncan Campbell, who died in 1872; secondly in 1875 to Catharine, daughter of William Boston, and thirdly in 1907 to Mildred, daughter of John Peel, London, Ont., and sister of the late Paul Peel, painter. Sir George leaves a widow, two sons and six daughters. Duncan C. Ross, member of Parliament for West Middlesex, is a son.

LADY ROSS AN ARTIST.

Lady Ross, who was a daughter of John R. Peel, of London, Ont., and a sister of Paul Peel, the great Canadian sculptor, is one of the most amiable and ber-liked of the ladies of the sessional set. She is an artist of note, but since her marriage in 1901, she has abandoned the easel and given her whole attention to the care of her husband.

As Minister, Sir George will long be remembered by many for the "Ross Bible," which was a compilation from Scriptures intended for general use in Public and High schools. But there were few new things in education which Mr. Ross did not exploit. He was a tireless experimenter with a great and a growing pride in the "school system" of Ontario. There were educators who maligned him for his experiments; and many who bless him for his progressiveness. He was never asleep. A tireless student of history and of constitutions, he made a name for himself as an oratorical teacher. His public speaking was of the very first rank. No man in Canada and few men anywhere could so deeply interest a crowd in an abstruse subject by the power of ideas wedded to oratory. He was famous at home and abroad; in the United States and in England. As a compiler of useful information he had few equals; in this respect being a real contributor to historical knowledge; as much at home before a convention of educators as on the stump before the electors; and dearly loving a fight.

AN INDEPENDENT THINKER.

Although a life-long Liberal, Sir George Ross has always been a man of independent thought, as is evidenced by the fact that in the old days when his party was wedded, first, to free trade, then to commercial union, and later, to unrestricted reciprocity, he remained a firm and outspoken supporter of protection for Canadian industries. We have it on no less an authority than Colonel George T. Denison, that at a critical time, when many of the leaders of his party were casting their eyes in the direction of Washington, men, principally Conservatives, who set themselves resolutely to stem the tide and turn it in the direction of active Imperialism, found an active supporter in the Hon. George W. Ross. Since being appointed to the Senate, Sir George has insisted on pursuing an independent course, voting against the Government majority upon several occasions.

The Hotel's Curse.

A curious story is being told of a big London hotel which is now beating records for prosperity. When it was building all manner of mischances piled up the bill of costs, and things continued to go wrong.

One of the directors, with some belief in the occult, inquired into the history of the land on which the building stood, and found that it had once belonged to a monastic community whose abbot, on being expelled, had solemnly cursed the ground and declared that no enterprise connected with it should prosper.

Ascertaining that a monastery of the same order existed in Devonshire, the director went thither and prevailed on the abbot to go through the form of removing the curse. His fellow-directors laughed when he told them the story, but the hotel has prospered ever since.

A Society Fad.

The latest craze amongst women is to have their pet animals tattooed on their arms, ankles, shoulders or chests. Mr. South, a tourist, told an interviewer the other day how he first makes a drawing of the little favorite, which he then transfers to the body of the owner, and afterwards tattoos, with the aid of electricity, to the skin.

"There is quite a craze for women to have their pets tattooed on their arm," he said. "I have done this in the case of horses, dogs, cats, birds, and even wild animals, such as lions and tigers. I recently tattooed on a woman's shoulder a photograph of her little pet rabbit. It is a uncommon idea to have a 'ucky pig' tattooed on the arm. Both men and women come to me to have lucky pigs designed for them."

A Monosyllabic Sermon.

Rev. Dr. A. Smythe Palmer preached a sermon at Holy Trinity Church, Wanstead, England, in words of one syllable. The text was "The Word was made Flesh," and the preacher used nearly 800 monosyllabic words.

Ring Down the Curtain.

He—I called to see your father this afternoon.
She (fluttering visibly)—Oh, did you?
He—Yes; he has been owing our firm a little bill for some time.

The Truthful Promoter.

"How can you expect me to put money into this business? I don't know anything about it."
"Well, that was one of the reasons why I expected you to put money into it."

A Woman Diplomat.

Men Fight On Their Stomachs

Napoleon so said. A man with a weak stomach is pretty sure to be a poor fighter. It is difficult—almost impossible—for anyone, man or woman, if digestion is poor, to succeed in business or socially—or to enjoy life. In tablet or liquid form

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helps weak stomachs to strong, healthy action—helps them to digest the food that makes the good, rich, red blood which nourishes the entire body.

This vegetable remedy, to a great extent, puts the liver into activity—oils the machinery of the human system so that those who spend their working hours at the desk, behind the counter, or in the home are rejuvenated into vigorous health.

Has brought relief to many thousands every year for over forty years. It can relieve you and doubtless restore to you your former health and strength. At least you owe it to yourself to give it a trial. Sold by Medicine Dealers or send for trial box of Tablets—Dr. Pierce's Invalids' Hotel & Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N.Y.

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We have put the knife down deep in order to clear out the stock, and are offering our goods at less than manufacturer's cash prices. Now is your opportunity to buy Reliable and Up-To-Date goods at from 50 to 60c on the dollar. This is your opportunity—Don't miss it.

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Ladies' Mink Marmot, Muffs and Ruffs regular \$20.00 to clear at.....\$13.50
Ladies' Cloth Coats, very latest makes, regular \$8.75 to clear at.....\$5.00
Men's Black Beaver Coats, Imitation Persian Lamb Lining, Rubber in Lining, Fur Collars, regular \$20.00 to clear at.....\$14.00
Men's Cloth Coats reduced to.....\$7.50
Boys' Gray Tweed Coats, Fur Collars, heavy Flannel linings, sizes from 27 to 32, Regular \$7.50 for.....\$3.95

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