

SIR OLIVER MOWAT'S REMARKABLE CAREER.

He Will Rank as One of the Great Statesmen of the World.

His Youth, His Entry into Politics and His Long Period of Power in His Province—One of the Confederation Fathers—A Great Organizer and Leader and a Man of Great Strength of Character and Executive Capacity.

Sir Oliver Mowat was born on July 22, 1820, in what is stated to have been a modest cottage on Quarry street, now known as Wellington street, in the town of Kingston.

His father was John Mowat, a native of the parish of St. Andrew, in the county of North Ayrshire, a parish situated a few miles south of John O'Grady's house, and consequently one of the most northerly of the parishes on the mainland of Scotland. His father was a soldier under his Majesty George III. Shortly after the fall and abdication of Napoleon in April, 1814, the British Government ordered Mowat to take part in the struggle then going on between Britain and the United States. They arrived in Lower Canada in July, 1814, and on Sept. 11 of that year played a gallant part in the disastrous action at Plattsburgh. In June of the following year (1815), Napoleon Bonaparte having escaped from Elba and again become a menace to Europe, the regiment was ordered to Flanders, but Sergeant Mowat did not go with them. He had decided to become a Canadian citizen, so he settled down to the avocations of a peaceful countryman. At the time the soldier's sweetheart had been at the wars a Scotch lassie had been waiting for him in his native parish of Canisbay. So soon, therefore, as Sergeant Mowat had made a home for her, she came to Canada to join her lover. They were married at Montreal by the Rev. J. Sommerville, Presbyterian minister, on June 16, 1819. Mr. Mowat became a member of the Legislature of the Province of Ontario (afterwards the Province of Canada) in 1854, and Mr. Stevens (afterwards manager of the Gore Bank) was one of the witnesses of the ceremony.

Of this marriage were born three sons and two daughters. The sons were: (1) Oliver, born July 22nd, 1820; (2) George, who for many years practised law in Kingston, in partnership with the late Hon. Sir Alexander Campbell; (3) the well known in his lifetime as Dr. John Mowat, M. A. (Edin.), D. D. (Glas.), for seven years pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Niagara, and afterwards for more than forty years Professor of Hebrew, Chaldee and Exegesis at Queen's University, Kingston. Of Sir Oliver's two sisters, one became the wife of the late Mr. John Fraser, of Kingston, and the other married Lieut. Col. John Duff, later the 4th Hussars, Kingston, Ont.

John Mowat was moderately conservative in his ideas, as in his later years it was often stated of his son, despite his leadership of the Liberal party. He died on February 4th, 1890, just as his eldest boy, then an eminent barrister of forty years of age, was coming into political prominence.

Early Education.

Oliver Mowat was educated at private schools in Kingston. Among his schoolmasters were the Rev. John Crakebank, afterwards professor or assistant professor at Aberdeen University. Among his schoolfellows were the late Sir John A. Macdonald, the late John Maxwell Strachan, the Rev. Walter Stennett, M. A., afterwards Principal of Upper Canada College, and John Hilliard Cameron, whose father was then an officer in garrison at Kingston.

It was at the age of sixteen, in Michaelmas term, November, 1836, that Oliver Mowat filed his petition for admission to the Law Society of Upper Canada as a student. He had passed the necessary preliminary examination, coming out at the head of the junior class. In the following January he was articled to John A. Macdonald, the late Chief Justice Alexander Campbell, then a practising lawyer in Kingston.

Mr. Joseph Pope, C. M. G., in his "Life of Sir John A. Macdonald," deals with the articulation of the articled young man. "On being called to the bar Mr. Macdonald opened an office in Kingston, and began the practice of law on his own account. In the first year of his profession there entered the articled student a lad destined to become in Ontario scarcely less eminent than himself. I refer to Mr. (now Sir) Oliver Mowat, the son of Mr. Macdonald's intimate personal and political friend, Mr. John Mowat, of Kingston.

After his four years in the Kingston office, young Mowat came to Toronto in 1840 to complete his studies in the office of the late Robert Easton Burns, whose law partner he subsequently became. He boarded with a Mr. Osborn, who was superintendent of the George Street Methodist Sunday School, and it was at one of the annual gatherings of this Sunday School that he made his first public speech. Among the other speakers that day were Mr. Hazen, afterwards Chief Justice of Ontario, and Mr. Robert Easton Burns, whose law partner he subsequently became.

As a young man also, Sir Oliver, thirson of a veteran, took an interest in military affairs, and held a Lieutenant's commission in the first Frontenac militia, and it is recorded by the intimate biographer previously mentioned he carried the colors on the occasion of the great gathering of citizens from all parts of Upper Canada, which met at Queenston in July, 1840, to arrange for the restoration of the Brock monument, which was blown up on Good Friday of that year.

Called to the Bar.

In Michaelmas term, November, 1840, Oliver Mowat, having completed his studies, was called to the bar of Upper Canada. This other barrister called during the same term

the City of Kingston, in opposition to the Hon. John A. Macdonald, but was defeated then by 311 votes.

At the general election in June, 1853, Mr. Mowat was again a candidate for South Ontario, and was again opposed by Mr. William Laing, whom he defeated by a majority of 476. The Government, however, proved unable to carry on the business of the country.

When Parliament reassembled in May, 1864, it became evident that the new Administration were no more able than their predecessors to carry on satisfactorily the business of the country. A way out of the difficulty was found where it was least expected, however. On the very day of the Ministerial defeat, the Hon. George Brown presented to the House the report of a Special Committee to consider the relations of the two provinces and the constitutional changes necessary to put an end to the existing impasse in the affairs of the country. The report of the committee, of which Oliver Mowat was a member, recommended changes in the direction of a federative system to be applied either to Canada or to the British North American Provinces. To solve the deadlock Hon. George Brown came forward, and offered to the Administration the support of himself and the Upper Canadian members of the House to effect the constitutional changes which his special committee had recommended. The offer was accepted, but Sir John Macdonald and Mr. Alexander Gait could only be satisfactorily attained by the formation of a coalition Cabinet in which Mr. Brown and some of his Upper Canadian friends should have portfolios.

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Before the start Sir Thomas Lipton, the sailmaker, and Col. Sharnock Crawford, Vice-Commodore of the Royal Ulster Yacht Club, headed the challenger, which made a magnificent picture, as, under her hoist of canvas, she drove past Nothe Head.

A later account of the accident: At about 10.40 a.m., when nearly all the off-shore sailing was over, the starboard tack to stand up to cross the line, when a sudden gust of wind, sweeping out of Weymouth Bay, struck the yacht and completely dismantled her. The weight of rigging screws of her main shrouds gave way, and her mast carried away close to the deck. With it went sails and gear in a confused mass of wreckage.

Deprived of its shroud, the immense steel tubular mast swayed for a fraction of a second, crumpled up like a tube of paper and went overboard, creating general havoc as it fell. So sudden was the calamity that the yacht lay, wrecked and helpless, before those on board realized what had happened. Fortunately most of the tremendous weight of the gear fell clear of the deck. Otherwise the disaster must have been multiplied tenfold. As it was, only one life was lost, that of a member of the crew named Collier.

Sir Thomas, who was extremely distressed by the fatality and the injury to the yacht, said in an interview that the accident occurred absolutely without warning, and much quicker than when Shamrock II. was similarly dismantled in the Solent.

[Just as a race between Shamrock II, Shamrock I, and Sybarita was being started in the Solent, off Southampton, Eng., May 22, 1901, a sudden squall struck the yachts broadside on the topmast of Shamrock II, which was carried away, and then her mainmast went by the board, carrying all her sails with it and leaving her practically a wreck. Shamrock I was also considerably damaged. No one was injured on board either yacht, but King Edward, who was on board Shamrock II, had a miraculous escape.]

ANOTHER ACCIDENT TO CHALLENGER SHAMROCK II.

Was Dismantled, a Sailor Drowned and Sir Thomas Lipton Hurt.

Weymouth cable.—Sir Thomas Lipton's new challenger for the America's Cup, Shamrock III, was dismantled in a squall to-day, shortly after leaving this harbor, preparatory to another trial spin with Shamrock I. Her mast, as it fell over the side, carried several of the crew, and all the gear and canvas overboard. One man was drowned, and several persons, including Sir Thomas, who was knocked down a hatchway, were hurt.

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GREAT IRISH CONVENTION.

National Meeting to Discuss the Land Bill.

AMENDMENTS TO BE PRESSED

Dublin, April 20.—The National Convention convened by the United Irish League met to-day in the historic round room of the Mansion House here. About 2,000 delegates assembled in the rotunda, which was incapable of holding all who had come from every part of Ireland to discuss the Irish land bill. On the platform sat almost every Nationalist member of Parliament, with a few exceptions. In the body of the rotunda was a gathering seldom equaled in representative capacity.

Early in the morning Lord Dunsany, who is simultaneously president of a private meeting of the landlords' committee, sent word to John Redmond, the Irish leader, suggesting that the land conference reconvene on Saturday, after the opinion of the Nationalist members of Parliament had been ascertained. The suggestion was accepted, and the delegates, who had been waiting for the reconvening of the conference, were accordingly informed.

Mr. Redmond will be unable to deliver a speech, but he will be present on the proposition to amend the bill. The agenda for which longly agenda have been prepared, consisting of many proposed amendments to the details of Secretary Wynneham's proposals, the chief mover being William O'Brien and other Nationalist members of Parliament, will be discussed by the delegates.

Mr. Redmond, however, will ask the convention to entrust to the executive committee the responsibility of eventually dealing in a committee stage with the amendments. It was learned that Lord Dunsany is of opinion that some of the amendments in the Nationalist agenda never could be accepted by the government, but that some of the others might be accepted.

A motion to reject Secretary Wynneham's Irish land bill as not meriting support was defeated by an overwhelming majority in the National convention here to-day. This ensures the conference approving the bill in principle.

Michael Davitt then received a great ovation. He demanded the release of Col. Arthur Lynch (who is undergoing a sentence of life imprisonment after having been convicted of high treason), and he also demanded that the bill, even as amended, would not put an end to the land struggle, and moved in friendly terms an amendment to Mr. O'Brien's motion providing that Nationalist members of Parliament refer the bill back to the convention for final approval after passing the committee stage in the House of Commons, so that the people themselves may say if they accept it as amended and that the convention be adjourned instead of dissolving.

After speeches in opposition by Mr. Redmond and Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Davitt concluded by cheering withered his amendment on the merits of which the convention seemed fairly equally divided, and the threatened split was averted.

After a speech by T. P. O'Connor, Mr. O'Brien's original motion was carried unanimously, and the convention adjourned until Friday, after six hours' continuous sitting.

ALBANIANS NOT PLEDGED.

Turkey to Send Troops to Control District.

Constantinople, April 20.—It is now understood that the commission sent by the Sultan to appeal to Albanians to secure their adhesion to the reform scheme of the powers, except on the condition that the Albanians be allowed to choose their own Government and civil officials, and minor concessions be granted them.

The Porte has decided to establish a military camp at Beratovitch, and has ordered nineteen battalions to

NEWS IN BRIEF

CANADIAN.

The Northwest Legislative Assembly opened at Regina.

The Toronto Granders will visit St. Thomas on Victoria Day.

The Toronto painters strike has been settled.

Two thousand carpenters of Montreal have voted to go on strike.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has offered Brockville \$15,000 towards a public library.

The young man who committed suicide in High Park has been identified as E. V. Welsh, of Hastings.

Recent storms have washed out roads and swept away bridges in Essex.

The Walkerville strike was settled and all except the machinists have returned to work.

Mr. Jeremiah Simmonds' farmhouse, near Frankford, was destroyed by fire.

A company has been formed to promote English settlement in New Ontario.

The Toronto Public School Board was unable to decide upon a system of shorthand.

The postoffice at Arcola, Assa., was robbed of \$2,000 cash and papers worth about \$6,000.

The Victorian Order of Nurses met in the Legislative Chamber, Toronto, Lady Minto was present.

The Toronto Board of Control voted about \$12,000 additional for improvements in the Exhibition Park.

Rev. Dr. Gordon, Principal of Queen's University, has made an appeal for co-operation between universities.

The Toronto Board of Control has postponed the letting of contracts, suspecting a combine among contractors.

Robert Lithgow, who was injured in the runaway at Foxboro', in which Miss Annie Johnston was killed, died of his injuries.

According to a judgment by Recorder Weil, Montreal city cannot assess buildings in course of erection for the purpose of taxation.

The steamship Lake Simcoe arrived at St. John with 1,900 immigrants, a large number of them being English.

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Samuel Miles, a three-year-term prisoner from Chatham, with twelve months to serve in the Kingston penitentiary, is dead.

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