
CHAPTER XXVIII

SCOTTISH LEGISLATORS OF WESTERN CANADA

THE interest in national affairs, so general among Scotsmen, no doubt accounts for the large number of Scotsmen occupying representative positions of trust in the various countries of the world to which they have gone. The two strains or lines of political ideal broadly represented in Sir Walter Scott of the Conservative type and Robert Burns of the Liberal have shown themselves among Scotsmen everywhere by their taking decided position in the opposing camps of Liberal and Conservative. No doubt the fact of Scotland having a State Church led to the adherents of that Church being largely Conservative, while those of the dissenting Churches were chiefly Liberal. However, even where there is no establishment of religion, as in the British colonies, this division is noticeable, however much some may maintain that the theology of the Presbyterian Churches, to which Scotsmen largely belong, inclines to Liberalism in public affairs.

As soon as representative government began in Manitoba in 1870 steps were taken for the election

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of representatives both to the Dominion and Local Parliaments. One of the first Scottish men who was chosen to represent Marquette County in Manitoba in 1871 was Robert Cunningham. He had come to Manitoba to represent the *Toronto Globe*, but settled down in Winnipeg, where he became engaged in the publication of a local journal. He was a man of intelligence, and went to Ottawa during a troublous period, so far as Manitoba affairs was concerned. During the heat of his election in Marquette constituency the Scottish poet of the district, who was evidently an ardent supporter, wrote an election squib for circulation, of which the following stanza is a sample :—

If there is in all the land
A wight that's suited to command
Warlocks and witches in a band,
That man is Robbie Cunningham.

Among the early residents of Winnipeg was Mr. Arthur Wellington Ross, of a Highland family of the county of Middlesex in Ontario. For years a successful teacher in that province, Mr. Ross completed his law course in Toronto and began his legal practice in Winnipeg. He was in the firm of Ross and Killam, his partner becoming afterward Chief Justice of Manitoba. Ross entered the Manitoba Legislature and was for years a member of the Dominion Parliament. He was an energetic business man and did much to advance the interests of Winnipeg.

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Reference has already been made to the Hon. Donald Gunn, a Caithness man and Selkirk settler, who became a member of the first Legislative Council of Manitoba. With him was associated Francis Ogilvy, of Portage la Prairie, of Scottish blood, who for the eight years' life of the Council was a Councillor and afterwards became a stipendiary magistrate. To this same body, as already mentioned, belonged Colin Inkster, a leading man of Orkney blood, who after the abolition of the Legislative Council became Sheriff of Manitoba. President of the Legislative Council of 1871 was a notable man, Hon. James McKay. He was a man whose lineage, as having Scottish, French, and Indian blood in his veins, brought him into touch with all the elements of the population of Red River Settlement. He was a man of great physical strength, and was known as a powerful athlete and mighty hunter. He was, moreover, a natural leader of men. A part of his father's family followed the Scottish Church of his father's people, among them being Rev. John Mackay, Presbyterian Missionary at Mistawasis Indian Reserve, near Carlton House, while the Hon. James McKay followed the religion of his French ancestry and was a Roman Catholic. After the abolition of the Legislative Council Hon. James McKay became a member of the Manitoba Government.

Mention has already been made of Hon. John Norquay as being a most useful man in Manitoba politics in uniting together the old elements and the new. A member of the Assembly and Province

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of Manitoba, of Orcadian descent, and of fine natural qualities, he passed away all too soon from the field of Manitoba public affairs.

Among the veterans of Manitoba Legislative life was Kenneth McKenzie, who came from Puslinch, near Guelph, Ontario, as early as 1868 and settled at Burnside, near Portage la Prairie. He himself being a Gaelic-speaking Scotsman and his wife a Lowland woman, the McKenzie home became the abode of hospitality for many a new settler and land-seeker coming to early Manitoba. Even during the strenuous times of the first Riel Rebellion McKenzie became a representative of the Provincial Council which met to consider the affairs of the disturbed country. He afterwards served a number of years as a member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Burnside. A prosperous farmer, he obtained large quantities of land in the Portage la Prairie district, and was known by his Scottish acquaintances as the "Laird of Burnside." On certain occasions in the Legislative Assembly when a measure was to be "talked out," Mr. McKenzie would entertain the House by a speech in Gaelic, which produced the most uproarious scenes. Examples are given of his Highland enthusiasm and ready wit which relieved the monotony of many a debate.

Senator Robert Watson, referred to in the Canadian "Who's Who" as a Scotsman, Presbyterian, and Liberal, came from his birthplace in Western Ontario to Manitoba in 1874. The

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building of two mills in Portage la Prairie and Stonewall, Manitoba, stands to his credit. He was elected to represent Marquette County, Manitoba, for three Parliaments—1882-1887-1891—in the Dominion House of Commons. He left Dominion politics to become Minister of Public Works for Manitoba from 1892 to 1900. In the same year he was called to the Senate, and has been a useful member of that body.

Hon. Findlay Young is an old resident of Manitoba. Coming from the English-Scottish speaking districts of the Province of Quebec, Mr. Findlay Young took up the work of a farmer near the town of Killarney in Southern Manitoba. He was a member of the Manitoba Legislature and was also a member of the Greenway Government. Afterward he was called to the Senate, and by his equanimity of temper and his industry as a legislator has gained a high reputation as an upright and popular man.

Senator Jas. M. Douglas was born in Roxborough, Scotland, in 1839. He came to Canada and studied for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Toronto University, Knox College, Toronto, and Princeton University. He became a pastor in Ontario, and was for six years a missionary of the Church in India. Coming to Manitoba, Mr. Douglas was minister in Brandon and at Moosomin, N.W.T. In 1876 he retired to a farm, and was elected for the House of Commons during that year. For some time he has held the position of Senator. Mr. Douglas

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is an active representative of the farming community of Western Canada, and has been useful in leading many movements for the amelioration of their condition.

Hon. Colin Campbell, of Scottish descent and Attorney-General for Manitoba, came from Burlington, Ontario, to begin the practice of law in Winnipeg. On both sides a Campbell, he has shown the adaptability of the Argyllshire Highlanders, whom he commemorates in the name of his beautiful Winnipeg residence, "Inveraray." He has been a most successful legal practitioner, is a strong adherent of the Church of his fathers, and is a member of the Board of Manitoba College.

Though not a Member of Parliament, John McDougall, the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Manitoba House of Assembly at Winnipeg, is as well known as the best of them. He is a Scotsman of the Scotsmen. He came to Manitoba in the seventies and was Postmaster in succession to Hon. A. G. B. Bannatyne. He retired to St. Andrew's Municipality, and has been for many years Clerk of that municipality, of which he is a leading personality—in fact, the genius of the place. During the Legislative Session he returns to Winnipeg and instructs the new members in the routine and punctilio of the House. He is a Scotsman of "pairs."

Another of the officials of the Legislature of Manitoba is J. P. Robertson, Provincial Librarian. Born in Perthshire in 1841, he is an out-and-out

Scotsman. For many years connected with the Press both in Ottawa and Winnipeg, he retired into the more peaceful, but no less exacting, cloisters of the Legislative Library, having lived successfully through "two administrations." His Scottish spirit has found room for its activity in a most sedulous cultivation of the St. Andrew's Society, Clan Stewart, and the raising of the 79th or Winnipeg Regiment of Highlanders. But Mr. Robertson's enthusiasm reaches perihelion as Secretary of the Manitoba Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. For years he has watched over its interests and succeeded in organising what is now thought to be the "Winter Meet," or "Greatest Bonspiel" in the world. Of this mention may be made more fully in a later chapter.

Coming back to Members of Parliament, mention may be made of John Crawford, of Neepawa, born in Huron County in 1856. He was formerly a Member for Beautiful Plains in the Local Parliament, and also from 1902-7 in the Dominion House of Commons. Dr. Thornton, of Deloraine, Member from 1907 to 1910 for that constituency, is an enthusiastic Edinburgh Scotsman, a fine medical practitioner, a good speaker, and a most useful citizen. John A. Campbell, B.A., of Manitoba College and University, was Member of the Legislative Assembly for Dauphin for 1907-10. A competent teacher, a successful lawyer, and a good citizen, he does honour to his nationality and Alma Mater. Dr. B. J. McConnell

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is a medical practitioner of Morden, Manitoba, and for two Parliaments member of the Legislature for Morden. A good friend of the Church of his fathers and a most benevolent son of Æsculapius, he is a typical Manitoban. Dr. Armstrong, also a medical man and member of the Legislature, is the energetic M.P.P. for Gladstone.

Journeying westward from Manitoba to Saskatchewan, we find a province still more Scottish in its leading attributes than is Manitoba. When Sir Campbell-Bannerman's Cabinet was formed in Great Britain it was remarked by a London daily, in referring to the large preponderance of Scotsmen found in it, that in old days the Scotsmen came down to England and drove away their cattle, but left them the land, now, said the newspaper, "They have come down upon us and taken the land as well." So with Saskatchewan.

In dealing with the Province of Saskatchewan, which became autonomous in 1905, we see all the members of the Scott Cabinet, Calder, Motherwell, and Lamont, of Scottish descent. They had, indeed, taken possession of the whole province. Hon. Walter Scott, Premier of Saskatchewan, was born in 1867 near London, Ontario, of Scottish descent and of Scott and Paton blood. He began Western life as a printer and publisher, having had the *Standard*, Regina, *Times*, of Moose Jaw, and also the *Regina Leader*, founded by that eloquent Irishman, Nicholas Flood Davin. Elected to the House of Commons in 1900 and 1904, he was selected to form the first

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Government of Regina ; this Government, always strong, has been twice sustained at the polls, in 1905 and 1908.

Hon. James A. Calder, LL.D., was born in Western Ontario in 1868, of Scottish descent, and grew up as a scholar in the Winnipeg schools. He graduated with high distinction as a student of Manitoba College and University. He was a successful teacher, school principal, and inspector in the North-West Territories, and became, on the formation of Saskatchewan, Provincial Treasurer and Commissioner of Education. It has been his duty and privilege to organise a system of public education and to establish the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon.

Hon. William Motherwell was born at Perth, Lanark County, Ontario, in 1860, and is of Scottish descent. Young Motherwell began life as a farmer's son, but took the intelligent and praiseworthy course of fitting himself for his life-work by attending the Guelph Agricultural College, of which he is a graduate. Seeking a wider sphere, he emigrated to Western Canada and settled in the district of Qu'Appelle, where he engaged in successful farming. Having taken a strong position in advancing agriculture, it was not surprising that on the formation of the Province of Saskatchewan in 1905 he should be chosen for the position of Provincial Secretary and Commissioner of Agriculture. He sits in the Local Legislature for the Humboldt constituency, is an official in the Church of his fathers, and a noted advocate of temperance and agricultural reform.

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The fourth member of the Scott Government for Saskatchewan was John H. Lamont, B.A., LL.B., a graduate of Toronto University. He was born in 1865, and descended from true children of the heather, Duncan C. Lamont and Margaret Robson, of Orangeville, Western Ontario. Emigrating west to the North-West Territories, he settled at Prince Albert and practised the profession of law. On the formation of the new province he was chosen as Attorney-General, representing Prince Albert in the Legislature. He was raised to the Bench as Judge in the Supreme Court of Saskatchewan, and now occupies that place with distinction (see Chapter XXVII.).

In the Parliament of Canada we have already mentioned Senator Douglas as representing the Scotsman's place in the West, but there are others. In the House of Commons one of the hard-working and reliable members is George E. McCraney, B.A., LL.B., of Toronto University. Born in 1868, when it is stated that he is recorded as of Scottish descent, a Presbyterian and a Liberal, we find the source of his success. Mr. McCraney was practising law at the town of Rosthern, but has now removed to the city of Saskatoon, and is serving his second term in the Dominion House of Commons.

One of the pushing medical men of the northern part of Saskatchewan is Dr. Neely, of Scoto-Irish descent. He is a man of great popularity, and was twice elected in the Local House for Humboldt, but was chosen for the Dominion Con-

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stituency in 1908. He is a native of Grey County, Ontario, where he formerly followed his profession.

John Gillander Turriff, M.P., a well-known Westerner, was born in 1855 on the St. Lawrence in Quebec Province, but settled in the Moose Mountain District of the North-West Territories, and represented the local constituency for three terms, 1884-91. He has a wide knowledge of Western conditions, and has sat for two Parliaments in the House of Commons. With the push of his Scottish ancestors he stands out as a sound Scoto-Canadian.

Travelling westward in search of the men who have sprung from the land of brown heath and shaggy wood we come to Alberta, with its towering Rockies, which far transcend the grandeur of the mountain and the flood of the Mother Country, for Ben Nevis and Ben Lomond do not approach in height the foothills of the Rockies, and are absolutely outclassed by the mighty peaks of "Sunny Alberta." In this land the Scotsman by right has taken up his abode.

Hon. Alexander Cameron Rutherford was born in 1857 and is a graduate of Toronto, McMaster, and Alberta Universities. When Alberta was formed into a province he was called on as Premier to form a Cabinet. He is a native of Carleton County, near Ottawa, and has both Rutherford and Cameron blood in his veins. After graduating at McGill in Law he settled in Edmonton, now the capital of Alberta. As the first Premier of Alberta

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he was called on to establish many new institutions, among them the University of Alberta at Strathcona, and the Alberta Normal School at Calgary. His Government was overwhelmingly sustained in 1905 and 1909. During the year 1910 he resigned the Premiership. He resides in Strathcona.

In the Rutherford Cabinet the Attorney-General was Chas. W. Cross, a graduate of Toronto University and of a family of Scottish blood in Eastern Ontario. Belonging to the strong legal firm of Small, Cross and Biggar, he was appointed the first Attorney-General for Alberta. He resigned his position in the Government of Alberta in the year 1910.

It is almost unnecessary to state that the Hon. Duncan McLean Marshall, an influential citizen of Edmonton, Alberta, is of Scottish descent, inasmuch as he was born in Bruce County, Ontario, in 1872, his father's name being John Marshall and that of his mother Margaret McMurchy. On both sides he has the blood of the Gael. From 1891 to 1898 he was one of the most prominent leaders of the Patrons of Industry Movement in Ontario, owning the newspapers *Thornbury Standard*, *Clarksburg Reflector*, and *Bracebridge Gazette*.

J. M. Douglas, M.P., the Member for Strathcona during the Parliament of 1909, is the son of Rev. Jas. Douglas, who was a pioneer Presbyterian missionary at Morris and Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. On both sides of his family he is of Scottish descent. He has been a successful busi-

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ness man and filled many offices before he succeeded to his present position.

Robt. Menzies Mitchell, M.D., M.P.P. for Weyburn, Saskatchewan, is of Scottish descent, and was born and educated in Ontario. In 1908 he was elected for the district of Weyburn, Saskatchewan.

Passing on to British Columbia we find that the ubiquitous Scotsman has taken his full share in the founding and development of the Pacific province and in its Legislative Halls. Among the most determined and successful men of British Columbia was Robert Dunsmuir. He and his wife were brainy Scottish people. Coming from Scotland, with a knowledge of coal-mining in all its phases, he became one of the most wealthy men on the Pacific Coast. His hands were upon the mines, the forests, the railways, and the steamships of Vancouver Island. He was a member of the Legislature of British Columbia for years, and his wife survived him to show a remarkable capacity for business in the management of her great possessions.

Hon. John Robson was born in 1824 in Lanark, Ontario, of Scottish parents, and rose through various steps of business development until he became a prominent member of the Legislature and Premier of British Columbia. He was devoted to the Church of his fathers, and really became sponsor for a great part of the money required to erect St. Andrew's Church, Victoria, British Columbia. He was a man of high character, fine ability, and exceedingly popular. He passed away

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all too soon, his death being caused by an accident on a visit to London, England. He was a worthy Scot.

James B. Kennedy was a native of Ottawa, of Scottish parentage, who went to New Westminster and became one of the notable lumbermen of the Pacific Coast. Taking a very great interest in public affairs, he has filled many public offices and positions in the City Council and the Provincial Legislature, and also as Member of Parliament in the House of Commons at Ottawa. He is a man who has done honour to his Scottish blood in the West.

Hon. William John Macdonald, Senator, was born in Skye in the Scottish Hebrides. He joined the Hudson's Bay Company and entered the British Columbia Legislature in 1859, and six years afterward became member of the Legislative Council of his province. He was called to the Senate on the entrance of the province to Confederation in 1871, has been in public life for nearly half a century, and has filled many important positions.

Hon. John Andrew Mara, of Kamloops, is the eldest son of John Mara, of Toronto. He was among the celebrated band of Canadians who in 1862 came by the westward route to British Columbia. He settled at Yale and took a large part in advocating the entrance of British Columbia into the Canadian Federation. In 1883 he belonged to the Provincial Legislature, and also became a Member of the Dominion House of Commons.

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William Roderick Ross, M.P.P. of Fernie, is the son of Donald Ross and Ann McKenzie, Scottish residents of Rupert's Land. Young Ross was born in 1869 at Fort Chipewyan in the Athabasca Region, and was educated at St. John's College, Winnipeg. He has been for several years in the Legislature of British Columbia, and in 1910 became a member of the Provincial Cabinet.

Alexander Henderson is Commissioner—virtually Governor—of the Yukon, where he has reduced confusion to order. To his other successes in life he has added a reputation in military affairs. He is a Major in the Volunteers and was commander of the Canadian Rifle Team at Bisley in 1891 (see Chapter XXVII.).

Hon. Daniel Alexander Macdonald was of Scottish descent, being born in Prince Edward Island in 1858; became a member of the Bar in his native island in 1883; he went west to Manitoba and was made Judge of the Court of King's Bench in Winnipeg.

John A. McDougall, M.P.P., Edmonton, is more fully described among the successful business men in Chapter XXX.