
CHAPTER XXX

SCOTTISH BUSINESS MEN

WHEN men come to settle in Canada from such Scottish centres as Glasgow and Aberdeen it is presumable that they know something about business. The extent to which the business of London—the great metropolis of the Empire—is carried on by Scotsmen is universally admitted in London to be surprising. In banking the Scottish banks are unsurpassed for management, for wholesale shop ability three or four establishments might be selected in Glasgow or Paisley which Manchester or Birmingham can hardly equal, but when it comes to pure trading Aberdeen stands well.

In old Red River days the Scoto-Irish merchant, Andrew McDermott, easily stood first, and, as we have mentioned, his Orkney son-in-law, Andrew Bannatyne, came close behind him. The Hudson's Bay Company shop had always a number of Scottish clerks who in the old Red River days "cast up accounts" with much ability. The advent of the Canadian Pacific Railway brought in a number of business managers of high ability, and a number of them were Scotsmen. Con-

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spicuous, as the head of the largest concern in Winnipeg, and of a business requiring the very greatest skill in managing large bodies of men, is Sir William Whyte, the head of the Canadian Pacific Railway in Western Canada. Born in Scotland in 1843, he began a business life in the office of a Scottish estate and for a time in a Scottish railway. Coming to Canada at the age of twenty, he entered the Grand Trunk service and gained rapid promotion; he went through every grade of railway work, which admirably fitted him for the great railway work of his later life. Having occupied several positions of superintendency and management on Ontario railways, he became in 1886 General Superintendent of the Western Canadian Pacific. Since 1904 he has been second Vice-President, having the direction of all the Canadian Pacific activities from Lake Superior to the Pacific Coast. But Mr. Whyte is much more than the successful business manager of a great railway. He has been a great social, religious, and educational leader in Winnipeg and Western Canada, he has been among the leaders congregation of the Church of his fathers in Western Canada, he has been among the leaders in its missionary and general activities. As Chairman of the Board of Management of Manitoba College he has for years done much for the good of the institution. A social favourite, his presence at all festivities has been marked by a high and distinguished stand for everything pure and noble. His gifts and charities have been

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notably liberal, and his treatment of the business interests of Winnipeg and the West has been most considerate. His sense of justice and sympathy for labour is so great that the workmen of his Company are willing to leave their case in his hands whenever he will assume it. He is a noble type of Scotsman.

Among the members of the Canadian Pacific Syndicate living in Montreal, but taking a great interest in the West, is Richard B. Angus, born in Edinburgh in 1831. He has a nephew, Manager of the Bank of Montreal in Regina. As a steady business man at the helm of both the Bank of Montreal and the Canadian Pacific Railway, his influence and assistance are much appreciated in Western Canada. A former official as Western Passenger Agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway was Robert Kerr. The position filled by him in the early days of the Canadian Pacific Railway in Winnipeg needed a blend of tact and firmness. Mr. Kerr possessed both of these qualities. He became General Passenger Agent of the Company in Montreal, and during the year 1910 he retired.

Among the old-timers of Manitoba who have now passed away, but who deserve to be mentioned, were two brothers, Duncan and Alexander Macarthur. They had both been in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, and were natives of Morayshire, Scotland. Alexander was the first to come to the West from Montreal. He was a man of fine appearance, and was a cultivated

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and literary man. Being in Manitoba in the time of the Riel Rebellion, he took a leading part as a Loyalist, and with word and pen did something to influence public opinion against the aggressive and vainglorious Riel. He was an expert accountant, but passed away in the second decade of the history of the province. The more substantial and influential brother was Duncan Macarthur. He had left the Hudson's Bay Company's finance department and became the Manager in 1872 of the Merchants Bank of Canada, the first Canadian Bank that began business in Winnipeg. After a number of years Mr. Macarthur started a local bank, called the "Commercial Bank of Manitoba." It did a good business, but was forced out by stronger and less scrupulous interests. Mr. Duncan Macarthur was a brilliant financier and a supporter of every good movement. He entered the Local Legislature for a time, and took a leading part in what was called the "Disallowance of Railways Movement." He was a public-spirited man, generous to his Church, Manitoba College, and all charity. He lived for a time in Chicago, and passed away in 1908.

Perhaps the business man doing at present the largest business in Western Canada is Mr. John D. Macarthur, a railway contractor, born in Lancaster, Glengarry County, Ontario, and, it goes without saying, of the most marked and unexceptionable Highland Scottish descent. Coming years ago to the West, he became a large timber dealer, and in later days, holding other railway contracts,

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became one of the chief contractors on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. Of a quiet and unassertive manner, he is a man of fine, equable disposition, and generous and of high principles in the different relations of life. To Church, education, and charity he is liberal. On one of his Grand Trunk Pacific contracts he had to deposit a cheque of 10 per cent. of the contract, amounting to \$1,300,000.

Douglas C. Cameron, of Scottish descent, was also born in the old county of Glengarry. Mr. Cameron has become one of the most notable citizens of Winnipeg. Coming West in the early days, he was for years the head of a lumber mill in Rat Portage. Possessed of large timber limits, he moved to Winnipeg and occupies Brucefield, one of the finest residences of the city. Although an unsuccessful candidate at the General Election for Winnipeg in the Dominion, yet there is no citizen more public-spirited or more respected. Honorary Colonel of the 79th Highland Regiment of Winnipeg, and a leader in every good movement, he is now Governor of Manitoba.

Among the most influential and respected business men of Western Canada is Kenneth Mackenzie, until lately a wholesale grocer. Of Scottish descent, a native of Woodstock, Ontario, and bred to his business in Hamilton, Mr. Kenneth Mackenzie is an old resident of Winnipeg. He is noted as a man of probity and high principle. Carrying on a branch business in Edmonton and elsewhere in Western Canada, Mr. Mackenzie has

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been regarded as one of the first business men of the country. He has always been a most liberal giver to Church, Missions, and education, as well as a leading man in the councils of the Board of Trade and other business organisations. He has now retired from business and enjoys a period of well-merited ease.

Alexander Macdonald was born in the West of Scotland and is a fine type of the brainy Scotsman. He came as a young man to Winnipeg, and went through the various stages of clerk, partner, and proprietor of one of the largest business concerns in Western Canada. He has his new quarters in a large wholesale establishment in Winnipeg, but has branches in Vancouver, Lethbridge, and elsewhere in Western Canada. He has been Alderman and Mayor of the City of Winnipeg, and always takes much interest as an independent thinker in the politics of the country. He has been a most generous and systematic supporter of the different charities of the city of Winnipeg.

Among the most enterprising and generous members of the mercantile fraternity in Winnipeg was Robert J. Whitla. He was a Scoto-Irishman, who came from Eastern Canada to Winnipeg in the seventies and built up a large and flourishing wholesale business, even when the opportunities were not so good as they now are in Winnipeg. He did not enter public life to any great extent, but as a vigorous speaker and a generous supporter of every good cause he had not his superior in the city. He had wandered away from the

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Church of his fathers, but was a broad-minded and deeply religious man. His influence for civic purity and for a high type of life was pronounced and unwavering.

That blood will tell, and Scottish blood at that, is shown by the business success of three grandsons of the celebrated John Galt, the novelist. These three Galts live in the city of Winnipeg. It is hardly necessary to recall the fact that John Galt, besides being a novelist of some note and author of such popular books in their day as "The Legatee" and "Laurie Todd," was in Canada in the first quarter of last century agent for the Canada Company, that he laid out the city of Guelph and the town of Goderich, besides having his name attached to the town of Galt in Ontario. He had two sons, who both became notable in Canadian life. One was Sir Thomas Galt, late Chief Justice of Ontario, and the other Sir Alexander Galt, of Montreal, formerly Finance Minister in the Macdonald Cabinet in the Dominion. George Frederick Galt, a son of Sir Thomas, lives in Winnipeg, and is head of the great grocery firm, his partner being his cousin, John Galt, son of the late Sir Alexander. They commenced early in the history of the city, and their business has grown to great proportions. They have branches of their Winnipeg House in Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, Prince Albert, and Vancouver. They are connected with numerous local financial institutions, and are noted for their interest in all public charitable institutions, especially in the Winnipeg

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General Hospital. Besides this they are most liberal supporters of many sports, and it was largely through them that the Winnipeg Boating Club was financed in order to enable it to win the ribbon in the boatraces at Henley. The other son of Sir Thomas Galt in Winnipeg is Alexander Casimir Galt, K.C., who is a member of the law firm of Tupper, Galt and Tupper, of Winnipeg. A grand-daughter of the novelist is also married to Mr. J. Stewart Tupper, of the same firm.

Among the most able and rising men of Winnipeg at the present time is Edward Brown, capitalist, who came from the good Scottish county of Huron in Ontario. Mr. Brown, with his brothers, came to Portage la Prairie in Manitoba a quarter of a century ago, and began a general store business, in which they were very successful. They also dealt largely in the purchase and sale of farm lands, by which they realised great profits through the natural rise of land in the province. In 1905 Mr. Brown was, on account of his ability as a speaker, his social and financial position, and high character, chosen as the leader of the Opposition in the Local Legislature of Manitoba. Owing to the determined opposition given him by the Government he was defeated. At the election for the Local House in 1910 he was again a candidate for election in South Winnipeg, but was defeated by a small majority. Mr. Brown is a most prominent man in the councils of the Church of his fathers, and a generous supporter of everything religious and educational.

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One of the oldest business men of Winnipeg, of Scottish descent and of Scottish birth, is John Leslie, the head of a large furniture business. He has attended strictly to business and has not sought prominence in civic government or in politics, either Provincial or Dominion. He is, however, a man of much information, a reader, and a supporter of education, as well as a prominent leader in Church life. He has also filled the highest offices in the Masonic Order, both in the Province of Manitoba and in the wider field of Dominion Masonry. He has been a successful business man, and may be depended on to support most liberally all good public objects.

Coming from the most easterly province of the Dominion—New Scotland—but a descendant of good forbears in "Auld Scotia," is Mr. George R. Crowe, one of the safest and most reliable financiers of Manitoba. Engaged in the grain business, he is understood to have been successful in business, and is a member of companies which require financial specialists to guard them. Mr. Crowe has hitherto shown an aversion for public office, but he is a leader in Church affairs, and a most pronounced advocate of Church Union and of all movements of laymen in the interests of morals and religion.

John McKechnie is one of the veteran iron-workers in Winnipeg. His establishment, known as the Vulcan Ironworks, founded when Winnipeg was young, has grown to be a great and successful manufactory. John McKechnie has

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always stood for those qualities which his race has fought and suffered for. As an honest man he has the goodwill of everybody, and as a fair and just man he can hardly be excelled. He has always been a strong St. Andrew's Society man, a strong man for his Church, and a leading member of the School Board, which is no small distinction in Winnipeg.

Two brothers, Robert and Andrew Strang, born in Montreal, the former having passed away, were always true to the Scottish traditions passed down by their fathers. They came out from Hamilton to Winnipeg, the former more than forty years ago, the latter in 1873. Robert Strang was a financial agent, and became the head of the Board of Underwriters of the Insurance Guild. Andrew Strang, who was formerly a partner of the chief of early Winnipeg merchants, Andrew Bannatyne, has been a merchant in one connection or another since the earliest days of the province, and is now Collector of Customs for the city. Both of the Strang brothers were strong St. Andrew's Society men.

One of the latest arrivals in Winnipeg, and now head of the local Immigration Department of the Dominion Government—a most important office—is Bruce-Walker, an out-and-out Scotsman, born in Ayrshire in 1861. He arrived in Canada in 1882, and was for twenty years engaged in journalism. Going over to Glasgow, he was for several years Dominion Emigration Agent, and did much to systematise the emigration work there.

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He is now engaged in most congenial work in Winnipeg, and in general statistical work, publicity, and advertising, and organising the whole work of the Immigration Department probably cannot be excelled.

In the Post Office service of Manitoba two of the most prominent figures are the Postmasters of Winnipeg and of Portage la Prairie. The former of these is Peter F. McIntyre. He belongs to a strong Scottish family from the neighbourhood of Perth in the county of Lanark, Ontario. Coming to Manitoba in the seventies with his family, he spent several years as a teacher in the Winnipeg schools. His family being printers, he for a time became a printer with them. He was for several Sessions a member of the Local Legislature for North Winnipeg, and became a leading man among his political friends. As the position of postmaster of a city with so great a mail distribution is an important and lucrative one, Mr. McIntyre was asked by his friends to accept the post which was offered to him by the Dominion Government. In the handsome new Post Office of Winnipeg the accommodation is of the best, and the Postmaster is efficient as any worthy Scot ought to be.

One of the oldest Post Office inspectors is M. McLeod, from Nova Scotia. The oldest postmaster of the province is W. W. Miller, of Portage la Prairie, a Scoto-Irish Canadian. Born in Ontario, he has been for many years the leading postmaster of Manitoba. He has also been the

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Chairman of the Educational Board and the leading spirit in the interests of advanced education in Portage la Prairie. Mr. Miller has also been the organiser of one of the largest Sunday Schools in Western Canada, and is not only a philanthropic man of high character, but perhaps the highest embodiment of the no-party man who attends to the interests of the Post Office, the Church, the Sunday School, and the public schools of his town.

Among the leading merchants of Manitoba is Mr. W. Fraser, of Brandon, whose name betrays him as of Scottish descent. He has been a pioneer in his business and a man of public spirit. Mr. Fraser has been a member of the Legislature, though at present, as his party is not in power, he is attending strictly to his business concerns. He represents the best type of business man in the city of Brandon.

Among business men few stand higher for probity and goodwill than James T. Gordon, a member of the old firm of cattle dealers, Gordon and Ironside. Mr. Gordon, of Scoto-Irish descent, was born in Ontario in 1859, and was a merchant in Pilot Mound, Manitoba. Moving to Winnipeg, he, for a number of years, represented South Winnipeg in the Manitoba Legislature. He has accumulated a great financial reward as well as the highest respect of the community.

Hon. David H. McFadden, also of Scoto-Irish parentage, was born in Ontario in 1856. Studying in the Veterinary College in Toronto, he settled in Emerson in Southern Manitoba. Elected to

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the Local Legislature, he became a member of the Roblin Ministry.

Among the most successful business men in Manitoba is William Robinson, of Scoto-Irish descent, born in 1859 in Ontario. Coming in early days to Manitoba, he made Winnipeg his home, and studied for a year in Manitoba College. He then engaged extensively in trade and took a leading part in developing the fisheries of Lake Winnipeg. He succeeded in uniting the opposing fishing interests, and became President of the Dominion Fish Company. He is a good citizen and a most generous giver to all worthy objects.

Among the earlier business men of Manitoba was the Hon. Gilbert McMicken, who was born in Wigtonshire in 1815 and died at a good age. Mr. McMicken had lived for years in the county of Essex, Ontario, and was employed in several lines of effort. In 1871, having been engaged in the service of the Dominion Government for some time and having performed good work in checkmating the Fenian plots against Canada, Mr. McMicken came to Winnipeg as Deputy Registrar-General. He was a good citizen, a strong supporter of the Church of his fathers, and a patriotic Canadian.

Among early settlers in Winnipeg was Col. Thomas Scott, of Scoto-Irish ancestry, born in the county of Lanark, Ontario, in 1841. He came out as a Volunteer officer under Wolseley, and in 1871 made a remarkably quick passage in the early winter with a contingent of Volunteers from Toronto to Winnipeg. He engaged in

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business, and was elected in 1880 as Member for Winnipeg in the Dominion Parliament. In 1887 he was appointed Collector of Customs in Winnipeg, in which position he remained until his superannuation in 1910. He has been an energetic and public-spirited citizen.

As showing the opportunities given to young men in Western Canada the case of Mr. George Paterson, a youth who went to Manitoba College and then into general business, gives fullest encouragement. Beginning without means, he undertook to use the water-power of the city of Brandon to produce electricity for the city, and at the same time acquired a large farm of some hundreds of acres to cultivate and improve. Everything seemed to work in favour of the young operator. He has become a wealthy man, a benefactor to his city, and an encouragement to young men of pluck and good habits. He is a good citizen, and it is not necessary to state that he is of Scottish descent.

In Regina, the capital city of Saskatchewan, are many examples of business success. Mr. W. Martin, druggist and bookseller, coming of a Scottish family in the county of Huron in Ontario, began early in Regina, and through all the drawbacks of the capital has held his own and advanced to a competence. His whole family connection, one an M.P. for the Dominion Parliament, and others in the surrounding country have been brilliant examples of success in agriculture. The Martins deserve to succeed as they are friends of every good movement.

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A nephew of Mr. Martin is Mr. James Balfour, a leading lawyer in Regina. A leader in religious and educational movements, he has gained success in his business and has participated in the results from the rise of agricultural land on the Regina plain.

One of the most brilliant instances of business success recorded in the Canadian West is that of Mr. John A. McDougall, general merchant and financial agent in Edmonton, the capital of Alberta. Mr. McDougall is of Scottish descent and from the Province of Ontario. In the early seventies he came out as a friendless young man to Winnipeg to go upon a surveying party for the summer months. During the winter months at Winnipeg he took advantage of a six months' course in general education at Manitoba College. Going West in the following year he journeyed by wagon trail for a thousand miles and settled in the little frontier village of Edmonton. Here, opening a small store, he united with another settler in a firm under the name of McDougall and Secord. The fur trade was the attractive and lucrative line of business at the time. This Canadian firm actually pushed out its traders and began at points to oppose the great Hudson's Bay Company itself. Later a strong French firm, the Revillon Frères, with shops in Paris and New York, also seeking furs, came to Edmonton, and McDougall and Secord sold out to them at a good price. Their regular business, along with their profits in land, made McDougall and Secord the

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strongest merchants in Edmonton, and gave them the reputation of being wealthy. Since that time Mr. McDougall accepted the office of Mayor and extricated the city from certain financial difficulties, and is now one of the members of Edmonton in the Local Legislature of Alberta. He is noted for his large gifts to religious, educational, and charitable objects.

Among the active business men of Calgary is an old-timer, Major Walker, who is of Scottish descent and hails from the neighbourhood of Hamilton in Ontario. While a large rancher near Calgary he has kept up his early service in the Volunteer Forces, and is thus known as Major Walker. As a man of high character he has done much to maintain the best soldierly qualities on the frontier in the neighbourhood of large reserves of Indians of several tribes. He has also been a moderating influence in the inevitable clash between the rancher and the incoming settler who desires to farm.

One of the prominent business men of Calgary, who has been largely engaged in the railway service in that place and elsewhere, is Reuben Rupert Jamieson, born in Ontario in 1856. He served the Canadian Pacific Railway in various capacities for thirty-five years, commencing as telegraph operator and ending as General Superintendent. He is a man much respected for his administrative ability and uprightness. He is a member of the Ranchmen's Club, Calgary.

Among the most successful business men of

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Victoria was Mr. R. P. Rithet, son-in-law of Alexander Munro. Mr. Rithet has business interests in British Columbia, but now lives in San Francisco, where he manages an enormous industry. As a liberal supporter of the Church of his fathers Mr. Rithet was well known in Victoria.

Another son-in-law of the veteran fur trader, Alexander Munro, was Captain Irving, of Scottish lineage, a citizen of Victoria. He was largely interested in the steamboat industry of British Columbia.

Among the most reliable and charitable men of the Hudson's Bay Company was John Lawson, a Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, who has long been a manager of the old Company's business in Victoria, and was for a time in Winnipeg.