
CHAPTER XXV

SCOTSMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE BETWEEN THE MACKENZIE AND MACDONALD PERIODS, AND SINCE

*Who are these all marching past
In vast procession?
They are those of many minds
Who, good or ill,
In various kinds
Made one strong will
To build the nation.*

IN the Parliaments of the United Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada from 1840 to 1867 there were many Scotsmen.

In the Parliament opened at Kingston on June 14, 1841, one half of the Legislative Council or Upper House were of Scottish extraction. Their names were : James Crooks, Adam Ferrie, Adam Ferguson, Alexander Fraser, John Fraser, John Hamilton, Robert S. Jamieson, John Macaulay, John Macdonald, Peter McGill, Thomas McKay, and William Morris. In the Lower House were the following Scottish Canadians : Upper Canada sent Sir Allan McNab, John Sandfield Macdonald, J. McGill Strachan, Malcolm Cameron,

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James Morris, David Thornburn, E. C. Campbell, John Gilchrist, Donald McDonald, Alex. McLean, and Isaac Buchanan. Lower Canada sent John Hamilton, Colin Robertson, Robert Christie, Henry Black, David Burnett, John Neilson, and Michael McCulloch. A Scotsman, the Hon. Malcolm Cameron, moved the Address from the Throne, and another Scotsman, the Hon. John Neilson, answered for the French Canadians in their protest against the Union. The prominent men of this period deserve some slight reference. John Sandfield Macdonald is referred to elsewhere. The Hon. Malcolm Cameron was Member for Lanark. His father, Angus Cameron, was a sergeant in the Army, who settled at Perth, Upper Canada, and kept an inn. The son started life as clerk in the distillery of the Hon. A. Graham. He was elected to Parliament for Lanark in 1836. He was made Inspector of Revenue, then Assistant Commissioner of Public Works, President of the Council, Postmaster-General, and was the first Minister of Agriculture. He sat during twenty-six years for several constituencies—Lanark, Kent, Lambton, and Huron.

Sir Allan McNab's career belongs partly to the Lyon Mackenzie and Strachan period. In 1829 he was arrested for contempt of the House and sent to gaol; but was in 1830 elected for Wentworth. In 1841 he was elected for Hamilton, which he represented until he retired in 1857. During the Rebellion he was Speaker of the Commons. In 1842 he led the Conservative

Opposition. In 1841 he was again Speaker ; in 1848 he again led the Opposition against the Rebellion Losses Bill. In 1854 he became Premier. In 1856 he retired, being succeeded in the Upper Canadian Leadership by his brilliant young Scottish colleague, John Alexander Macdonald. He returned to England in 1856. He was created a Baronet ; returned to Canada, and was elected to the Upper House, and was Speaker in 1862. He died that year at his residence, Dundurn Castle, near Hamilton. He was a man of faults, but also of great abilities and fine qualities. He was a leading and noted personality in the history of the first half of the nineteenth century in Upper Canada. With Mackenzie and Strachan he makes the third in a strong group of Scottish leaders in the young colony. He was a man who was headstrong and blunt, but he was loyal and with a single purpose, and had the generous heart of the Highlander. He represented, with Strachan, the best type of what was called the old-fashioned Tory in Upper Canada.

The Hon. William Morris entered Parliament in 1820. He became a champion of the Church of Scotland in the Clergy Reserves question. Elected for Lanark in 1836, he was appointed the same year to the Legislative Council. In 1837 he reorganised the Militia. As Receiver-General, under Lord Metcalfe from 1844 to 1846, he did good service for the country. He then became President of the Council, and died in 1848. He was noted for his honesty. He was born at Paisley,

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in Scotland, in 1786. His father came to Canada, but failing in business, became a farmer. The Hon. Wm. Morris had a son, the Hon. Alex. Morris, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba.

The Hon. James Morris, nephew of the above, was also born in Paisley, Scotland, in 1798, entered Parliament in 1837, and was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1844. He was Postmaster-General in 1858. He did much to reform the postal service. In 1853-54 he was Speaker of the Council. He died at Brockville in 1865.

The Hon. Adam Ferguson was a pioneer in Upper Canada in scientific agriculture. He was born in Edinburgh in 1783, being the son of Neil Ferguson, Esq., of Woodhill, of a noted Perthshire family. He founded the village of Fergus, in Wellington County. His country residence, near Hamilton, he called Woodhill, and he was a fine type of a class all too scarce in Canada, the gentleman farmer. His son, Adam Johnston Ferguson, was also prominent in Canadian public life, and represented in turn Waterloo and South Wellington. He was Receiver-General and Provincial Secretary in 1862. He inherited his mother's family estates, and added the name Blair to that of Ferguson. At Confederation Ferguson Blair was made a Senator and President of the Council in the Cabinet.

The Hon. John Hamilton was a son of the Hon. Robert Hamilton, of Queenston, who was born in Scotland. The Senator was born in 1801.

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He was made a Senator at Confederation, and was President of the Commercial Bank. He resided at Kingston, and was called the father of the Canadian Senate.

The Hon. James Leslie, who was born at Nairn, in Kincardineshire, in 1786, was another Scotsman, being a son of Capt. James Leslie, of the 15th Foot, who was Assistant Quartermaster-General at the taking of Quebec under Wolfe. He was a prominent representative of Lower Canada.

In 1841 the election in Toronto had three out of four candidates Scotsmen. They were George Munro, Hon. J. H. Dunn, and Isaac Buchanan. Munro was a leading citizen of Toronto. The Hon. Isaac Buchanan was born at Glasgow in 1810. He became a prominent Canadian merchant and a leading Reformer of the moderate type, and was a member of several Governments.

The Hon. Joseph Curran Morrison was born in Ireland, but was the son of Hugh Morrison, of Sutherlandshire, Scotland. Called to the Bar in 1839, he became the partner of the Hon. W. H. Blake. He was elected to West York in the Reform interest in 1847. He became Solicitor-General in 1854 and again in 1860. In 1862 he was raised to the Bench in the Court of Common Pleas.

Chief Justice Sir Adam Wilson was a leading lawyer. He was born in Edinburgh, and came to Canada in 1830. He was the first Mayor of Toronto elected by the people. He represented

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North York, and from 1862 to 1864 was Solicitor-General.

Sir John Rose, Baronet, G.C.M.G., was a native of Aberdeen. Born in 1821 and educated at King's College, he came to Canada and became a member of the Montreal Bar in 1842. He entered Parliament in 1851, and the same year became Solicitor-General, and Commissioner of Public Works in 1859. He served as an Imperial Commissioner, and in 1867 became Finance Minister. He retired in 1869.

The Hon. James Patton was born at Prescott, Upper Canada, in 1824. His father was Major Andrew Patton, of St. Andrews, Fifeshire, and the 45th Regiment. His brother was Rector of Cornwall. He removed to Barrie, where he practised law, and became a prominent Conservative. In 1856 he was elected to the Upper House for the Saugeen Division. He afterwards became Collector of Customs for Toronto.

The Hon. John Young was a native of Ayr, in Scotland, where he was born in 1811. He came to Canada, and became active in raising a regiment to put down the 1837 Rebellion. He became a prominent merchant and citizen of Montreal. Representing Montreal, he became Commissioner of Public Works in 1851. He was Harbour Commissioner of the port of Montreal, where he died in 1878.

The Hon. James Ferrier, a noted merchant of Montreal, was born in Fifeshire in 1800. A Conservative and a Methodist, he was noted for

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his energy and single-minded effort for good. He was appointed to the Upper House in 1867.

Hon. David Christie was born in Edinburgh in 1818. He entered Parliament in 1851 for Wentworth, Upper Canada. Elected to the Legislative Council in 1858, he became a Senator in 1867. He was Secretary of State in the Mackenzie Cabinet in 1873, then Speaker of the Senate. He accomplished much for Upper Canadian agriculture.

A list of some of the leading Scottish Senators since Confederation will include some notable personalities in the Upper Chamber.

One of the earliest was Lieut.-Col. the Hon. Walter Hamilton Dickson, representing Niagara. His father, a Scotsman, sat in the Upper Canadian Legislative Council. Col. Dickson was born in 1805, and was one of the first Dominion Senators.

The Hon. George William Allan, who became Speaker, was also a son of a former member of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada, the Hon. William Allan. Mr. Allan was born in 1822 in Toronto. He held many distinguished positions and was made one of the first Dominion Senators. There is a portrait of him in the Senate Gallery at Ottawa.

The Hon. David Lewis McPherson, a noted Canadian Highlander, was born in Inverness in 1818. He was a successful business man, railroad financier, and bank director. He was made Speaker of the Senate in 1880. His portrait is in the Senate Gallery.

The Hon. John McMurich was a member of the old Canadian Legislative Council. He was a

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prominent citizen of Toronto, though not a member of the Dominion Senate. His son, William Barclay McMurich, was twice Mayor of Toronto.

The Hon. Roderick Matheson, descended of that old Highland family of Ross-shire and Sutherland, was born in Ross-shire, and was a lieutenant in the Glengarry Light Infantry in 1812. He was called to the Senate in 1867. He died in 1872.

The Hon. John Simpson was born at Rothes, near Elgin. His parents were among the Scottish settlers at Perth, Upper Canada. He was a banker and founded the Ontario Bank. He was one of the original Dominion Senators in 1867. Of the first two Senators for Manitoba one was a Scotsman, the Hon. John Sutherland, of Kildonan. His father, Alexander Sutherland, was a Scottish soldier, who was of the Kildonan settlement in 1821.

A distinguished Senator representing British Columbia is the Hon. William John Macdonald, whose father was Major Alexander Macdonald, of Skye. Senator Macdonald is of a noted family in Western Scotland. He was born in Inverness-shire in 1832, and emigrated to British Columbia in 1851 as an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company. He became a prominent citizen of Victoria, and was called to the Senate in 1871.

Another Senator for British Columbia was the late Governor of that province, the Hon. T. R. McInnes. His parents were from Inverness and Paisley, but he was born at Lake Ainslie, Nova Scotia, in 1840.

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The Hon. Adam Hope was born in East Lothian, Scotland, in 1813. He settled at St. Thomas in 1837, removing thence to London and thence to Hamilton, where he built up a prosperous business. He entered the Senate in 1877.

The Hon. George Alexander was born in Banffshire in 1814, and educated at Aberdeen University. He was a noted provincial agriculturist. He was called to the Senate in 1873.

The Hon. Alexander Morris was born in Perth, Upper Canada, in 1826. He was the son of the Hon. William Morris. His father came from Paisley. Mr. Morris was educated at Glasgow and McGill Universities, and studied law. He was a distinguished writer on public questions. He entered Parliament in 1861 and the Government in 1869 as Minister of Inland Revenue. He was, in succession, Chief Justice of Manitoba and Lieutenant-Governor of that province.

The following were some prominent Commoners of this period: Thomas Bain, Member for North Wentworth. He was born in Stirlingshire in 1834. He became Speaker of the Commons. David Blair, LL.D., born near Ayr in 1832, of an old family, taught school and studied law, elected Member for West York in 1872.

Lieut.-Col. James Brown, of Belleville, Member for West Hastings, was born in Scotland in 1826.

Daniel B. Chisholm was a Member for Hamilton in 1872 and in 1874. He was a son of Col. George Chisholm and grandson of Mr. Chisholm, who came from Inverness.

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Robert Cunningham, elected in 1872 Member for Marquette, was born in Ayrshire.

The Hon. Peter White, P.C., born in Edinburgh, and son of Peter White, Esq., of Edinburgh, Scotland, represented North Renfrew for many years in the Commons. Chosen Speaker of the Commons under the later Conservative régime, he was one of the ablest Speakers Canada ever had. He was highly respected by men of all parties. His son has since represented the same constituency.

Sir James David Edgar, son of James Edgar, who emigrated from Keithock, Scotland, in 1840, was born in 1841 in the Eastern Townships, Lower Canada. He was Member for South Ontario, and elected Speaker of the Commons in 1896 and was knighted the same year.

Sir James Alexander Grant, K.C.M.G., Member for Russell County, was born in Inverness-shire in 1829. Was a son of Dr. Grant. He became a noted Canadian physician. He has had a long and active life, and has received many honours. He has just lately received the freedom of his own old city of Inverness. He has been president of many scientific and learned societies.

William Macdougall was born in Scotland in 1831; represented Three Rivers, Quebec, in Parliament.

Angus Morrison, son of Hugh Morrison, and brother of the Hon. Justice Morrison of the Ontario Bench, represented North Simcoe from 1858 to 1863 and Niagara in 1867.

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Thomas Oliver, born in Scotland, represented North Oxford from 1866 to 1888.

The Hon. William Patterson, Minister of Customs for the Dominion, has represented South Brant since 1872. He was born in 1839. His father came from Aberdeen. He has long been one of the Liberal leaders for Ontario.

James Young represented North Brant in the Ontario Legislature. He was born at Galt in 1835, elected to Commons for South Walerton in 1867, and again in 1872 and 1874.

James Findlay was Member for North Renfrew. He succeeded a Mr. Rankin, another Scotsman. He defeated the Hon. Peter White, who afterwards represented the Riding and became Speaker of the Commons and a Privy Councillor.

We have since had many noted Senators of Scottish origin, among them the late Hon. Sir George Drummond, Hon. David McKeen, of Nova Scotia ; Sir George Ross, late Premier of Ontario ; the late Senator Lauderkin, Ontario ; Hon. Robert Mackay, Montreal ; Hon. Robert B. Angus, Montreal ; Sir Richard Scott, Ottawa ; Hon. Archibald Campbell, Ontario ; Hon. R. Meighan, Montreal ; the late Hon. David McLaren, of Perth ; Hon. J. C. Edwards, Ottawa ; Hon. Robert Jaffray, Toronto ; Senator McMullen, Ontario ; and the Hon. J. K. Kerr, K.C., of Toronto, the present able Speaker of the Senate.

Among the Members of Parliament Scotsmen have been represented in the different counties by some noted Commoners, many of whom have since gone to the Upper Chamber, to the Cabinet,

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or other positions, and have been mentioned in other chapters of this volume. Among the most noted of the later Commoners was the Hon. Justice Sutherland of the High Court of Ontario, who was one of the most accomplished and able Speakers of the House of Commons. He is a fine scholar, a brilliant lecturer, and an enthusiastic Scotsman. Justice Sutherland is one of the most distinguished members of the Canadian Bench. In the present Dominion Cabinet are four men of Scottish extraction—Hon. Sydney Fisher, Hon. William Patterson, Hon. George P. Graham, of Ulster-Scottish descent, and Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King. Another prominent Commoner is Mr. Guthrie, an able lawyer and speaker, who is likely to enter the Cabinet. His father was a well-known Scottish-Canadian Commoner in the Ontario Legislature.

In New Brunswick the late Hon. Andrew G. Blair, Minister of Railways and Canals for Canada, was a noted example. He had been for years Premier of New Brunswick, and was one of the ablest Canadian administrators. In Nova Scotia the Hon. W. A. Murray, who has been for many years Premier of that province, is another instance of able Maritime Scotsmen.

In Ontario the Hon. John Strathearn Hendrie, the Hons. J. M. Gibson (the present Lieutenant-Governor), Samuel Nelson Monteith, Arthur James Matheson, William John Hanna, and J. G. Mackay (leader of the Ontario Opposition), represent a host of men of Scottish or Ulster-Scottish origin who are active in Provincial public life.