

Lord Strathcona Hale and Hearty at Ninety-three

Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal celebrated his ninety-third birthday on Wednesday last.

"Ninety-three years young" would seem to be the better phrase to describe the manner in which the Dominion's representative at the seat of Empire retains the keenness and shrewdness that placed him in the forefront of financiers, statesmen and philanthropists a generation ago, and retains them undimmed by the years that are dealing so kindly with him.

According to Beekles Willson, in his life of Lord Strathcona, the latter was described by Sir John A. Macdonald in the early seventies as "a mild old gentleman easily alarmed." The man who spoke of him as old, and any others who looked upon him as old at that time, have passed away, and yet he remains with a prestige and influence that have been steadily waxing. A nation has grown to manhood since he was called old and he who helped at the birth is still its mouthpiece in the Capital city of the Mother Country.

Nobody needs to be told that Lord Strathcona is a remarkable man. It is not alone his great age nor his wealth nor his position that make him such a man, though these depend in some degree on the qualities that made him eminent. When he came out to Canada, before Canada was Canada, a few months after Queen Victoria came to the throne talk of a Canadian republic was in the air. In this he had little part, as the Hudson Bay sent him immediately into the most inhospitable region of Labrador, as a clerk in their employ, but it shows what tremendous changes he has seen. He had left a comfortable position in the office of the town clerk at Fort, where he was born, because the glamor of the wilds had caught him, and his imagination was fired by letters written home by his uncle, John Stewart, a fur trader. He was nearly fifty days in crossing the ocean on this occasion, but since he has become a nonagenarian he has crossed from London to Ottawa and back in about fifteen days.

Donald Smith had two thousand miles of land travel in the depth of winter, to take from Quebec to Ungava to reach his destination. During the years that followed, he was moved from one station to another, Hamilton, Inlet, Rigoulette, and so on, and all the time he was far from civilization, and all that it means. How severe the discipline of the company could be is shown by the story related of Donald Smith, that,

when he found his eyes giving way, he travelled into Quebec to have them seen to. He was met by Sir George Simpson, on the outskirts, and ordered back immediately. He cause he had dared leave his post without permission, although he would have to travel one thousand miles to get that permission.

He was in the wilderness until he was forty-eight years of age, past that age at which Dr. Osler said men ceased to do constructive work. It must have been slow work, but as he was moved from place to place, those in charge at London began to notice that no matter how unlikely the place where Donald Smith was sent, he contrived in some manner or another to show a balance on the right side of the ledger. So he was given a chief leadership, and later, by ten years, he was appointed Chief Factor. Governor Dallas retired, and in 1868 it was announced throughout the service that he had been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the Company in North America, with his headquarters at Montreal.

Then began the stirring times following the sale by the Hudson Bay Company of Northwestern Canada to the Dominion government, and the first Riel Rebellion. How Lord Strathcona went out west as a representative of the Dominion government, and was imprisoned in Fort Gamet by Riel, is a matter of history. There is little doubt that the mild and yet decisive attitude that he took during the troubles there preserved for Canada a territory of which she is now intensely proud.

When the rebellion was over he still acted as the good fairy of the west, and in his three-fold capacity as a member of the Northwest Council, a member of the Provincial Legislature, and a member of the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa, he was able to exert a profound influence on the course of events. His part in securing the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and his work in conjunction with Mr. J. J. Hill in 1879, in arranging for Manitoba and the west an outlet to the south, laid the basis for the future development of the west.

It was during this pregnant period that Sir John A. Macdonald was shown his mistake in considering the subject of this sketch as "mild, old and harmless." On Donald Smith opposing him on an historic occasion adjournment took place amid confusion, and the Premier tried to reach the offending member, saying: "I'd slap your face as quick as Hell would scorch a feather," with that freedom of utterance that rather increased the old Conservative chief-

tain's influence in the country than detracted from it. However, they became friends again later, and Sir John A. Macdonald never again made the mistake of underestimating Sir Donald Smith.

In connection with more recent history, it was Sir Donald Smith, later Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, who laid down the lines on which the Manitoba school question was afterwards settled. He also, as chancellor of McGill University, selected the present principal. His donations to the Royal Victoria Hospital, are well known, as are his other benefactions. More spectacular than these was his fitting out of the Strathcona Horse, a body six hundred strong taken from the west, for service during the Boer war. The usefulness of such a body was demonstrated again and again during the war, although they were not given the opportunity for service they themselves despised.

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BIG LIBERAL RALLY

Halifax, Aug. 8.—The Young Men's Liberal Club of Kings county held a big rally at Canning (N. S.) tonight. The speakers were Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Sir Frederick Borden and Hon. H. H. Wickwire.

All the speakers arraigned the Borden government in strong terms. Sir Frederick Borden said the statement of the minister of militia that

NEWS FORECAST FOR THE COMING WEEK

Washington, D. C., Aug. 9.—President Wilson's plans for currency legislation at the present session of Congress will be advanced an important step on Monday, when a currency bill will be reported to a caucus of the Democrats of the House.

A State-wide mass convention of Republicans and Progressives of Maryland is to meet in Baltimore on Thursday to complete amalgamation with a view to defeating the Democrats in the coming senatorial election. A committee appointed for the purpose has drawn up a declaration of principles for the re-united party. This is said to contain practically all the planks, with the exception of the recall of judicial decisions, advocated by Theodore Roosevelt in the national Progressive party platform.

Beginning Saturday, elimination trial races for the German-American sanderclass yacht competition will be held off Marblehead, Mass., for cups offered by President Woodrow Wilson and Governor Foss, of Massachusetts.

Saturday is the day fixed for the start from Southampton, England, in the water-plane flight round Great Britain for the \$25,000 prize offered by the proprietors of the Daily Mail of London. The flight must be finished by August 30. Should no aircraft have completed the course within the stipulated time the donors of the prize reserve to themselves the right to extend the period or to put off the competition until next year.

Plans for a widespread campaign for votes for women, to be carried into all the States of the Union not having woman suffrage, will at a conference of the National Council of Women Voters, which will begin in Washington Wednesday and continue three days.

Other important gatherings of the week will include the triennial convocation of Knights Templars in Denver, the annual convention of the American Federation of Catholic Societies in Milwaukee, and the annual convention of the International Typographical Union in Nashville.

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WILL FIGHT SOCIALISM

Milwaukee, Wis., Aug. 9.—Plans for a nation-wide campaign against the spread of Socialism will be formulated at the annual convention of the American Federation of Catholic Societies in this city next week. The federation represents a membership of 2,500,000.

The convention will be formally opened tomorrow morning with a pontifical high mass in St. John's Cathedral, at which Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore will be celebrant. The sermon will be preached by Archbishop Cane of Dublin. In the afternoon there will be a street parade of the Catholic societies of Milwaukee and vicinity, and in the evening a concert will be given in the Auditorium.

The regular business of the convention will be taken up Monday morning. It will begin with a conference of the Social Service Commission, which was formed at the Louisville convention last year for the specific purpose of mapping out plans to combat the spread of socialism in America. The conference will be presided over by Bishop Muldoon, of Rockford, Ill., who has taken a leading part in the anti-Socialistic propaganda.

Each evening of the convention, which is to last four days, public meetings will be held in the Auditorium. At these meetings the speakers will include Archbishop Ireland of St. Paul, Thomas B. Minahan of Seattle, who was the first president of the Federation, and a number of other well known clerical and lay representatives of the Catholic church.

there was no drinking in the military camps was incorrect. He said that hundreds of gallons of beer were going to the Aldershot camp in Kings county every week.

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