

ripened by large experience of men and public affairs, he did his best, and did his duty well, when Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba during the first Riel rebellion, his great tact and good judgment peculiarly fitted him for the work required by the times.

361. Alexander Tilloch Galt, another of the Fathers of Confederation, died in Montreal, September 19th, 1893, being within a few days of his seventy-sixth birthday. He was the son of a Scotsman, John Galt, known in the early part of the century as a traveller, a writer of novels, a poet and a friend of Byron. Sir Alexander at the age of sixteen came to Canada in the employ of the British American Land Company. In 1849 his public life began with his election to the Parliament of the province of Canada for the county of Sherbrooke. In 1853 he was elected to Parliament for the town of Sherbrooke, a seat he held till the Union, when he was returned by acclamation as Sherbrooke's first member of the Parliament of Canada, holding the post of Finance Minister.

Sir Alexander Galt was one of the early advocates of the Union of the provinces of British North America, having delivered a speech in Sherbrooke in favour of union in 1857, and having in the next year moved resolutions in support thereof in the Parliament of the province of Canada. He was a delegate to the Charlottetown Conference, to the Quebec Conference and the London (England) Conference of 1867, when the terms of the British North America Act were finally arranged. Shortly after Confederation he resigned the portfolio of Finance Minister, and in 1872 severed his political connection with Sherbrooke, after representing that constituency for twenty-three years. His career as a public man did not end then, for in 1877 he took a leading part in the Fisheries Commission which met in Halifax, under the terms of the Treaty of Washington, 1871. From 1880 to 1883 he was High Commissioner for Canada in England. From the latter date he was engaged in protecting his coal and railway interests in the North-west Territories, having established the North-west Coal and Navigation Company. In 1885 he opened the first coal mine in the North-west.

“Sir Alexander was perhaps the most brilliant after-dinner speaker that Canadian public life has produced,” the *Canadian Gazette* declares.

His papers and reports on various subjects of public interest are luminous productions. His report of 1862 on the trade relations of Canada and the United States is a comprehensive