

investigation of the zollverein subject, his conclusion being, "the Minister of Finance, therefore, respectfully reports that he cannot recommend Your Excellency to submit the subject of a zollverein to the favourable notice of Her Majesty's Government."

362. Sir John Abbott, K.C.M.G., died in Montreal, on the 30th October, 1893. He was born at St. Andrews, Argenteuil, province of Quebec, on the 12th March, 1821. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1857, and appointed a member of the Executive Council and Solicitor General for Lower Canada in the Sandfield Macdonald-Sicotte Administration, 1862. He represented Argenteuil in the Provincial Legislature until the union of the provinces in 1867, when he was returned by the same constituency to the Canadian House of Commons, remaining its representative till 1874, from which date to 1880 he was out of public life, when he was returned for his old constituency. In 1887 he was called to the Senate and appointed a member of the Privy Council without portfolio, and made leader of the Government in the Upper Chamber. On the 13th June, 1891, on the death of Sir John Macdonald, he was named Prime Minister, and on June 16th the President of the Council. This office he resigned, owing to ill-health, November 25th, 1892.

He was for many years chairman of the House of Commons Committee on Banking and Commerce. He filled many important positions, among them that of standing counsel to the Canadian Pacific Railway from its inception to its completion; that of Mayor of Montreal for two years; Dean of the Faculty of Law, McGill University, for ten years, and President of the Fraser Institute.

Though a member of the House of Commons for many years, his abilities were not in any marked degree exerted in the party struggles of the period. His great legal practice absorbed his attention, and the measures with which he concerned himself were generally in some way related to law and commerce. His acceptance of a seat in the Senate as leader of the Government in that branch, imposed upon him duties of a very onerous character. As leader he had to make himself acquainted with the details of the business of all the departments, so as to be able to answer questions relating to administration, and to make a study of the policy of the Government in every particular. He was at once recognized as a leader in fact, as well as in name, and by none more readily than by the old standard bearers who from the time of the Union had borne the heat of battle in the Senate. So well did he perform the duties devolving on him that when