

## The Honorable Charles Dalton, K. C. G.

When the report "The Governor is dead" circulated on Saturday morning, Dec. 9th, it was not unexpected. Previously we had prayed for his spiritual strength and final perseverance, and now "May he rest in peace" was the calm response to the event we knew must be soon. And so, Charles Dalton, Knight Commander of St. Gregory, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, a thorough Christian gentleman, "full of years and of honors," has passed to eternity. We mourn his loss for he was our greatest benefactor; the Province mourns him because he was our Lieutenant Governor; the Church mourns him as one of her noble sons—a true knight; and well may the world at large mourn him for he was a public-spirited citizen who left the world better for his having lived in it.

The career of Sir Charles Dalton is a remarkable one indeed. He had very ordinary opportunities, and lived the life as a young man of the ordinary farmer, till the lure of the black fox skin impelled his steps to venturesome experiments. To him and to his partner Mr. R. T. Oulton belong the credit of founding the industry. The story of their development of it is most romantic; the tale of a gold strike is not more thrilling.

With success in this industry came wealth to Mr. Dalton, and it was then that the sterling qualities of his character were brought in evidence. Though riches came to him, yet he was never a prey to the folly of *le nouveau riche*. In fact to the end of his life, when he had received distinctive honors from both church and state, he retained the simple touch of his genial and kindly nature, and was most appreciative of the interest of acquaintances and friends.

It was while he was a member of the local Legislature that the first opportunity for his philanthropy presented itself. When the needs for a provincial sanatorium were discussed, Hon. Mr. Dalton, Member of the Executive Council, offered to build such an institution. Accordingly the Dalton Sanatorium was constructed near North Wiltshire; its subsequent fate forms a dreary chapter in the history of public health in the Province. The attention of this benefactor was then turned to St. Dunstan's. We had but one overcrowded building at the time. He realized our need, he sympathized with our plight, his





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generosity stirred him to further the cause of Catholic education, and his munificent gift enabled the erection of a residence building, named Dalton Hall in honor of the donor. We who enjoy the use of this building can hardly appreciate the great need of it in those years. It has enabled St. Dunstan's to broaden its scope of endeavor, and succeeding generations of students will bless the name of "Dalton" which is borne on this monument of Sir Charles's charity.

In war time Sir Charles furnished a fully equipped motor ambulance for service in France. In recent years he provided for his native village, Tignish, a magnificent boarding school for boys. The sum total of these gifts mark him as the man who has given more to public beneficence in our Province than any other man the Province has known.

In 1917 the attention of the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XV, was called to the public charity of Mr. Dalton. He immediately responded by conferring the papal decoration of the Order of St. Gregory the Great, making him a Knight Commander of the Order. This decoration is conferred, and that but rarely, on those who have promoted in a notable way the interests of society and of the Church. To our knowledge, Sir Charles Dalton was the only Islander, living here and for deeds done within the Province, to have received this signal Papal honor.

Then the crowning honor of a career of usefulness came to Sir Charles when in 1930 he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of the Province. This is the highest civil honor the state can bestow, and we have but to glance over the career of its recipient to see it was worthily placed. He fulfilled his duties in a dignified and courteous manner; and though in his failing years his voice could not always be heard in public speeches, his words gave evidence of a high degree of intelligence and of an alert and active mind.

We could not close this tribute without reference to the sturdy and living religious faith which characterized both his private and public life. He tempered well his temporal with spiritual affairs. All in all we rarely see his like, and his memory will long be fragrant among us. We feel sure his good deeds go before him,—a shining light to guide him to the peace of a happy eternity. May he rest in peace.