

Adams George Archibald

Adams George Archibald was born into a well-known legal family in Truro, Nova Scotia. Many of his relatives had been given positions as high court judges in Nova Scotia, England, and Canada, and later in life he would follow in their footsteps.

Archibald became involved in politics and served in the Nova Scotia Assembly as solicitor-general (1856-60) and attorney-general (1860-63). In 1863 he took the position of leader of the Liberal party in Nova Scotia from Joseph Howe. Archibald was a delegate at all three conferences on Confederation and strongly supported Nova Scotia's entrance into the Dominion.

After the signing of Confederation, Archibald was named to the first cabinet in the united Canada serving as Sir John A. Macdonald's secretary of state.



George Brown

George Brown grew up and received his early education in Edinburgh, Scotland, before emigrating from his homeland with his father to New York, U.S.A., in 1837. In 1843, father and son moved to Toronto and started *Banner*, a newspaper for Upper Canadian Presbyterians.

Only one year later Brown started the Toronto paper *Globe* in which he strongly supported reformers and encouraged responsible government. Through his support Brown helped bring about the Reform party's 1848 victory in Upper Canada. The *Globe* was used as an important tool in the Reform movement.

In 1851 Brown entered the Canadian Assembly representing Kent. With his reform ideals Brown won over the Upper Canadian reform Clear Grits and was a strong supporter of unification of the British North American colonies.

At Charlottetown he played a major and extremely vital role on the side of Confederation after forming a coalition with his Conservative rivals John A. Macdonald, Alexander Tilloch Galt, and Sir George-Etienne Cartier in order to strengthen the support for unification.

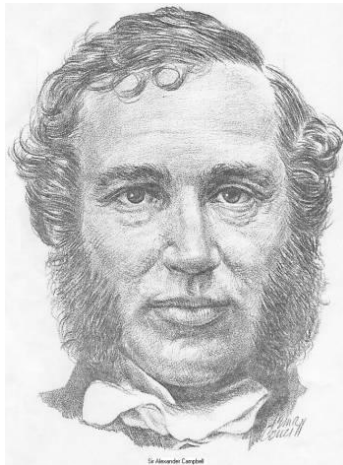


Alexander Campbell

Born the son of a doctor in England, Alexander Campbell immigrated to Canada after only one year. In Canada he was schooled at St. Hyacinthe College and Kingston Grammar School. Campbell's early focus was in the field of law and at the age of 17 he was hired as John A. Macdonald's second articulated student at the future prime minister's law firm. Four years later Campbell was called to the bar of Upper Canada and worked practicing law with MacDonald.

Aside from his career as a lawyer, Campbell also prospered as a successful businessman. In 1858 he also entered politics, being elected into the legislative council in the district of Cataraqui. Campbell served in the council until 1867 and prior to Confederation was given the position of commissioner of crown lands.

At the time of Confederation, Campbell was a member of the Great Coalition. After the Dominion was formed he was made a member of John A. Macdonald's first cabinet as post-master general.



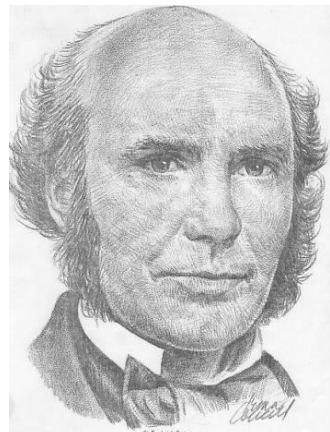
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Frederick B.T. Carter

Frederick Bowker Carter (1819-1900), lawyer, Prime Minister of Newfoundland (1865-69), was born at St. John's on February 12, 1819. He was the great-grandson of Robert Carter who in 1750 was appointed Justice of the Peace at Ferryland, grandson of William Carter who was judge of the admiralty court during the war of 1812, and son of Peter Weston Carter, registrar of the court.

He was educated in St. John's and London, and after being called to the bar in 1842, carried on a successful law practice. In 1855 he was elected to the House of Assembly for Trinity, in 1861 became Speaker of the house, and in 1865 succeeded Sir Hugh Hoyles as Prime Minister. As the leader of the government, Carter strongly opposed sectarianism and succeeded in having three prominent Roman Catholics joined his cabinet.

In 1864 he was a delegate to the Quebec conference, and favoured confederation, but in the election of November, 1869, was defeated by the powerful anti-confederation campaign of Charles Fox Bennett. He became [Prime Minister] again in 1875, and in 1878 succeeded Sir Hugh Hoyles as Chief justice [of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland]. He was the first Newfoundlander to be created K.C.M.G. He died on March 6, 1900. In 1846 he married Eliza Walters (d. 1895), fourth daughter of George Bayly.



George-Étienne Cartier

Cartier was born at St.-Antoine-sur-Richelieu in Lower Canada on September 6, 1814. He came from a wealthy family who claimed to be very distant relatives of the famous French explorer Jacques Cartier.

He became a lawyer in 1835 and also got involved in the railway business. Cartier became active in politics in 1848 when he was first

elected as a member of the Province of Canada's Assembly. He later became leader of a political party called the Parti Bleu that joined with the Conservative Party of Upper Canada.



John A. Macdonald led the Conservatives, and together he and Cartier were co-prime ministers of the Province of Canada. The two of them believed that forming a new, bigger country was the answer to the province's problems. Cartier was responsible for convincing most French Canadians that Confederation would be good for French Canada, as it would make Quebec a separate province. He died on May 20, 1873.

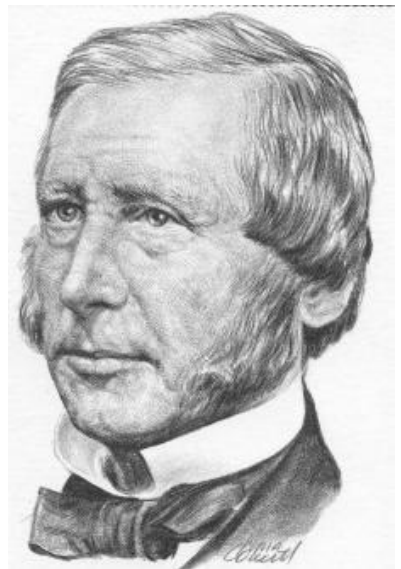
Edward Barron Chandler

Edward Barron Chandler was born into a Loyalist family and studied locally in Amherst. After moving to New Brunswick to study law, Chandler was called to the province's bar in 1823. Early in his career he was given the position of judge of probate and clerk of the peace in Westmoreland County.

In 1827 Chandler was elected into the New Brunswick Assembly and was known as a cautious reformer who was against the implementation of responsible government in the province. In 1836 he was appointed to the Legislative Council and in 1843 was appointed to the Executive Council.

Chandler was also interested in railway development and encouraged the creation of a railroad linking the British North American colonies. He was also in favour of ties with the United States and a supporter of Confederation.

Although he backed Confederation, Chandler was against the formation of a centralized government within the new country as he felt it prompted a loss of provincial rights. After Confederation was achieved, Chandler went on to become commissioner of railways in the Dominion.



Jean-Charles Chapais

Jean-Charles Chapais was a Father of Confederation, participating in the Québec Conference in 1864. He was a strong advocate for Canada East and served as the Dominion of Canada's first minister of agriculture. During his career, he helped influence legislation related to agriculture, settlement and education. He is a key player in the history and development of the Saint-Denis region of Québec.



Chapais was instrumental in the incorporation of the municipality and became its first mayor in 1845. He later served as its first postmaster in 1849. Within a few decades, Chapais guided Saint-Denis from a sparsely populated village to the most organized municipality in the region and a prosperous civic centre.

In 1864, he became the commissioner of public works in the Great Coalition government of John A. Macdonald and George Brown.

As a member of Cabinet, Jean-Charles Chapais participated in the work that paved the way for Confederation. He attended the Québec Conference of 1864 as a delegate. Though Chapais barely said a word at the conference, his dealings with the other delegates are noted for having negotiated on behalf of Canada East for provincial governments to have greater power in the federal system.

James Cockburn

James Cockburn participated in the Québec Conference of 1864. His crowning achievement was serving as Canada's first Speaker in the House of Commons.

In 1861, Cockburn was elected as an independent candidate to represent Northumberland West in the Legislative Assembly, defeating John A. Macdonald's postmaster general. Cockburn was a strong nationalist and expressed his desire to see all political parties united in common interest. This

leaning allowed him to empathize with Macdonald, who saw the need to unite the provinces.

As a member of the Great Coalition, James Cockburn was an attending delegate at the Québec Conference in 1864. Cockburn endorsed representation by population, but he wanted unity of political opinion for it to be achieved. However, Cockburn's contributions to the proceedings in Québec, and his participation in debates on Confederation in the Legislative Assembly, are negligible. Documentation from the period indicates that he barely spoke a word. Despite his silence, during the delegation tour following the Québec Conference, Cockburn hosted a dinner meeting in Cobourg. This stop is predominantly seen as a move to please the local delegate, who at that point was a loyal supporter of John A. Macdonald.



George Coles



Coles became Prince Edward Island's first premier in 1851.

The majority of Prince Edward Islanders were under the impression that Confederation — as discussed at the Charlottetown Conference in 1864 — had been thrust upon them without much warning or preliminary discussion. George Coles was no longer premier; his Reform party had been defeated twice, in 1859 and 1863, over conflicts concerning religion and education. As a Protestant leading a party mainly supported by the Roman Catholic minority, Coles had been unable to counter Protestant fears of Catholic intentions.

Beyond sectarian divisions, the Island was engaged intensely with the land question, which had taken a new form. The Conservatives, like Coles' Reformers, had failed to resolve the problem of leasehold tenure.

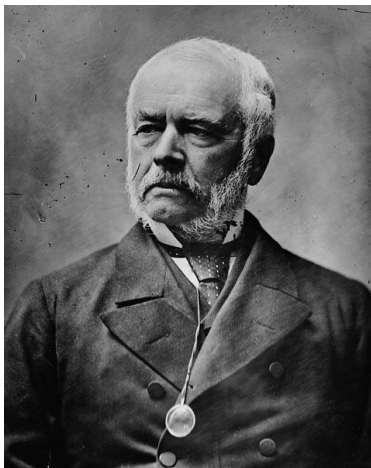
Coles denounced the Tenant League, which had widespread appeal. When the Confederation question emerged, he declared at the Charlottetown and Québec Conferences that he would only accept terms of union that put an end to leasehold tenure in Prince Edward Island. Such remarks were rebuked by delegates from the Province of Canada who felt that the Island had already been promised fair financial subsidies. Consequently, Coles led the Liberals into adamant opposition to the Québec Resolutions. With public opinion strongly opposed to the scheme — and with the James Colledge Pope government split on the matter — the Island stood aside from the Dominion when it was formed on 1 July 1867.

Robert Barry Dickey

Robert Barry Dickey was appointed to the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia in 1858, where he would serve until 1867.

Robert Barry Dickey was invited by Nova Scotia Premier Charles Tupper to represent Nova Scotia as a Conservative delegate at the Charlottetown Conference and at the Québec Conference in 1864. He was strongly opposed to Nova Scotia joining Confederation, believing that the financial terms offered to Nova Scotia were unjust. Perhaps because of his steadfast opposition to joining Confederation on the terms offered at the first two conferences, Dickey was not included in the Nova Scotia delegation sent to the London Conference in 1866.

He continued to fight for better terms and only converted to support of the union when Canada offered more lucrative subsidies to the province. He remained skeptical of Confederation's benefits for Nova Scotia, with one biographer speculating that he accepted it only because he felt the second option would be annexation by Canada.

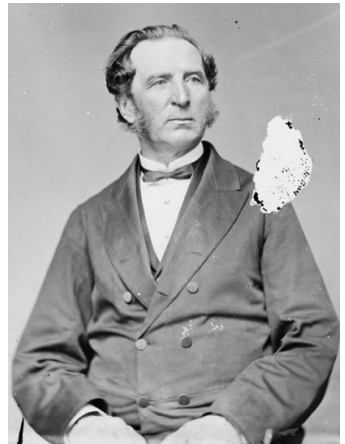


Charles Fisher

Charles Fisher was elected to the Legislative Assembly as a Liberal representative for York County in 1837. The beginning of his political career coincided with the Upper and Lower Canada Rebellions and he worked toward peaceful reforms in New Brunswick.

Charles Fisher joined with other New Brunswick delegates, under the leadership of Samuel Tilley, at the Québec and London Conferences, where they contributed to the drafting and completion of the 72 Resolutions. He lost his seat in the Assembly when supporters of Confederation were ousted from office in the 1865 elections. He returned to public life and the Assembly in an 1866 by-election that precipitated the formation of the pro-union government led by Peter Mitchell. Fisher's 1866 campaign was equivocal, addressing New Brunswickers both for and against Confederation. However, he became a key figure in the creation of the new nation once in office. As attorney general, Fisher was one of five New Brunswick delegates who attended the London Conference. He helped to draft the *British North America Act* (1867).

Elected to the House of Commons in 1867, Charles Fisher was given the honour of addressing a reply to the Speech from the Throne in the first session of Parliament.



Alexander Tilloch Galt

Son of famous colonizer John Galt, Alexander Tilloch Galt was born in England but didn't give his homeland high regard. In 1835 he immigrated to Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia, to work for the British America Land Company.

Here Galt saw potential for the area of Quebec's Eastern townships, which the British America Land Company was settling, to be linked to the ocean with a railway. Later he also became a contractor for the extension of the Grand Trunk Railway which was pushing westward from Toronto, and in 1849 he became president of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad.

In his day many railway promoters were also to become politicians and Galt was no exception. In 1849 he was elected into Canadian Parliament as a Liberal representative for Sherbrooke. Galt was a strong proponent of union with the United States of America. For a short period he retired from Parliament but returned in 1853.

In 1858 he joined John A. Macdonald and George-Étienne Cartier on the condition that federation of the colonies be an integral part of their platform and he became finance minister in their government. After Confederation, he would become Canada's first federal finance minister.

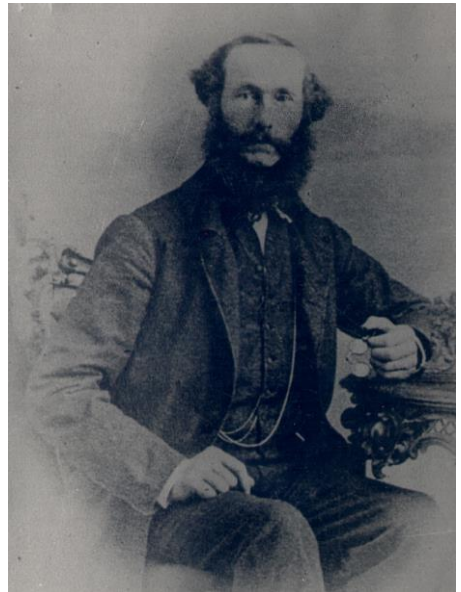


John Hamilton Gray (Prince Edward Island)

After receiving his formal education on the Island and in England, John Hamilton Gray, one of two gentlemen of the same name attending the Charlottetown conference, entered the British army at the age of 19. For more than twenty years he served in the 7th Dragoon Guards in campaigns in South Africa and India. In 1856 he retired from military service and returned to his hometown although he spent time as colonel of P.E.I.'s volunteer brigade.

In 1858 Gray entered politics and was elected into P.E.I.'s Legislative Assembly. From his position in the assembly he promoted bible classes in schools and sought to settle the century old Land Question, resulting from absentee landlords owning much of the land on the Island, once and for all.

At the time of the Charlottetown Conference Gray was as the premier of P.E.I. and as such was the host of the conference. On the first day of talks he was also elected chairman of the Maritime delegates. Gray entered the talks as a proponent of Maritime Union but soon came to see the advantages of Confederation for the Maritime Provinces.



John Hamilton Gray (New Brunswick)

Although born in Bermuda, John Hamilton Gray received his education at King's College in Windsor, Nova Scotia. In 1833 he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree and moved to New Brunswick where in 1837 he was called to the bar.

Gray entered politics in 1850 and sat in New Brunswick's provincial Assembly until 1867 as a Conservative representing St. John. He was well known for his orating skill in both his political position and his role as lieutenant colonel in the militia. Gray was one of two representatives of the same name who attended the Charlottetown Conference in 1864. A strong supporter of Confederation, Gray came into conflict with his own party and sided with his Liberal rival S.L. Tilley over New Brunswick's entry into union. After Confederation was achieved he was awarded the position of judge in the Supreme Court of British Columbia by John A. Macdonald.



Thomas Heath Haviland

Thomas Heath Haviland followed his father into politics in 1846. From 1846 until 1876, he sat in the Legislative Assembly as a Conservative representative for Georgetown. As one of the most prominent landowners on the Island, Haviland opposed responsible government and the redistribution of land holdings.



While Thomas Heath Haviland had opposed a Maritime union, he favoured Confederation because he feared that British North America was under threat from the United States. While other Prince Edward Island Fathers of Confederation focused on the economic impact of a federal union, Haviland was concerned with the wider differences between the American and British North American political philosophies.

He did not attend the Charlottetown Conference in 1864, but was one of the Island delegates sent to the Québec Conference. Haviland did not believe that Confederation would deprive Prince Edward Island of its autonomy, stating in an 1866 debate, "The powers... given to the Federal Legislature... neither require nor necessitate a nullification of the... Provincial Constitutions." He was one of the three commissioners who helped negotiate Prince Edward Island's entry into Confederation in 1873.

William Alexander Henry

William Alexander Henry, Attorney General for Nova Scotia in 1864, was a delegate to all three Confederation conferences. He went on to become mayor of Halifax, and later one of the first judges appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Henry was first elected in 1840 as a Liberal member for Antigonish, and represented the region almost continuously from that time until 1867. Although he was defeated in 1843, he was re-elected in 1847 for his support of responsible government.

Like some of his colleagues, Henry showed little interest in the idea of union prior to the Charlottetown Conference. His opinion changed dramatically after the meeting. He returned to Nova Scotia convinced that British American union would be the best means of achieving such benefits as free trade and the construction of the Intercolonial Railway. He took an active part in the social activities and the more serious negotiations of the Québec Conference. However, he faced the difficult task of defending the Québec Resolutions against the anti-Confederation movement.



Sir William Pearce Howland

Sir William Pearce Howland, businessman, politician, lieutenant-governor of Ontario 1868–73 (born 29 May 1811 in Pawling, New York; died 1 January 1907 in Toronto, ON). Sir William Pearce Howland was closely aligned with George Brown's Reform movement throughout the early years of his political career. By the time of Confederation, he had drifted closer to John A. Macdonald's Conservatives, and on 1 July 1867 became Canada's first minister of Internal Revenue. Though he retired from politics the following year, he remained active in public life almost until his death in 1907. He was the only American-born Father of Confederation.

Though William Pearce Howland did not attend the Charlottetown and Québec Conferences, he did participate in the London Conference — which began in December 1866 — where the final negotiations of the *British North America Act* occurred. Throughout this time period, he increasingly closed ranks with John A. Macdonald's Conservatives, thus distancing himself from George Brown's Reformers. With the implementation of Confederation on 1 July 1867, Howland had effectively crossed the floor and was named minister of Internal Revenue in Canada's first federal government.

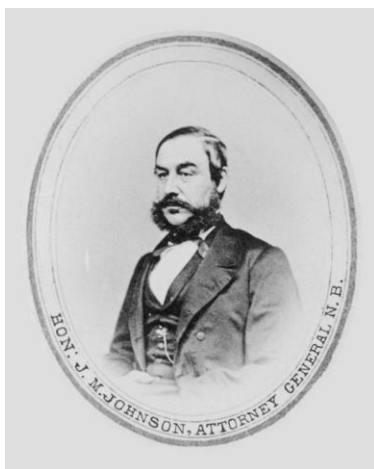


John Mercer Johnson

Born in Liverpool, England, John Mercer Johnson immigrated to Canada with his father while still a child. Johnson received his early childhood education at Northumberland County grammar school before studying law. In 1840 he was called to the New Brunswick bar and began a career as a lawyer.

Johnson entered politics in 1850 after being elected into the provincial assembly to represent his home county of Northumberland. Only four years after entering the assembly, Johnson found a place in the cabinet as solicitor-general. Later in his political life he would serve the positions of attorney-general, post-master general, and Speaker of the Assembly.

At the Charlottetown Conference and the two following conferences discussing Confederation, Johnson argued strenuously that the provincial governments should not hold any power over the county or district courts. This put him at odds with his fellow Fathers of Confederation but in the end he succeeded and won his resolutions. After Confederation, Johnson started into federal politics representing, once again, Northumberland County.



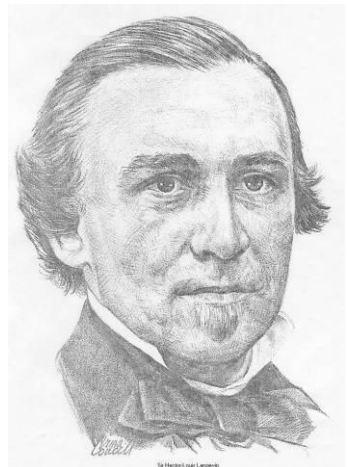
Hector L. Langevin

Born the son of Lt.-Col. Jean Langevin, Hector-Louis Langevin's first studies were to become a lawyer. In this pursuit he spent time at the Montreal office of George-Étienne Cartier, who would later be a fellow Father of Confederation, before being admitted to the bar.

Although he was accepted to the bar in October, 1850, he had already had a change of direction in his career and since 1847 had been working in the field of journalism. Langevin spent time at various newspapers at different positions. He acted as editor of *Mélanges Religieux*, contributor to *Journal d'Agriculture*, political editor of *Le Canadien* (1872-75), editor of *Le Courrier du Canada* (1857), and owned his own paper, *Le Monde*, in 1884.

Langevin started into politics by becoming Mayor of Quebec C. from 1857-61. At the same time he represented the Dorchester electorate in the Canadian Assembly. Langevin served as solicitor-general of Canada East from 1864-66 and post master general, 1866-67. He was also the head of the St.-Jean Baptiste Society from 1861-63 and the leader of the Institut Canadien.

At the Charlottetown Conference he defended Quebec's interests in Confederation. After Confederation he served as secretary of state in John A. Macdonald's first cabinet.

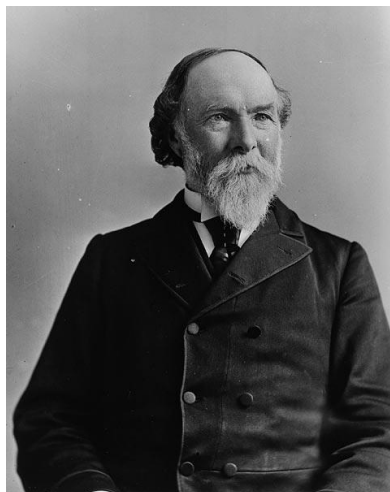


Andrew Archibald Macdonald

Andrew Archibald Macdonald was one of the five Island delegates sent to the Charlottetown Conference and one of seven representatives sent to the Québec Conference in 1864. Historian G. Edward MacDonald suggests that, “Besides his novel suggestion that each province should have equal representation in the proposed federal upper house, he played a minor role in the deliberations.”

Macdonald had changed his stance regarding Confederation by the end of the Québec Conference. He argued that Prince Edward Island did not stand to gain very much from union as it would be taxed at both the federal and provincial level.

However, when the colony's railway debt became insurmountable in the early 1870s, Macdonald was converted to Confederation. On 26 May 1873, he moved the adoption of Prince Edward Island's final terms of union in the colony's Legislative Council. Just over one month later, on 1 July 1873, Prince Edward Island joined Confederation as Canada's seventh province.



John Alexander Macdonald

John A. Macdonald was born on January 10 or 11, 1815 in Glasgow, Scotland. When he was five years old his family moved to Kingston in Upper Canada.

When he was fifteen he began to study law, and by the time he was nineteen he had opened his own law office in Kingston. He quickly got a reputation for taking hard cases, and for being a skilful lawyer. Macdonald soon started his political career as a councillor for Kingston in 1843. Four years later he moved to provincial politics when he was elected as the Conservative party's member for Kingston in 1847.

As a member of the Conservatives, Macdonald managed to unite French and English politicians. This allowed the new Liberal-Conservative party to form the government; after the leader of the party retired in 1856 Macdonald became co-prime minister of the Province of Canada.

In order to deal with the Province of Canada's economic and political problems, a group of politicians led by Macdonald came up with the idea of joining with the Maritime colonies to form a larger country. Macdonald was a driving force behind Confederation, and it was because of the important part that he played that he was asked to be Canada's first prime minister. He remained prime minister for most of the rest of his life. He died on June 6, 1891, soon after winning his fourth election.



Jonathan McCully

After receiving his education locally, Jonathan McCully, took teaching as his first profession. One of his early pupils, Charles Tupper, would later be a colleague at the Charlottetown Conference. He soon turned to studying law and was admitted to the Nova Scotia bar in 1837 and opened his own practice in Amherst.



In 1847 McCully was appointed to the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia and subsequently served as solicitor-general, commissioner-general for railways, and eventually emerged as leader of the government.

After moving to Halifax in 1849 he tried his hand at editing newspapers. He first edited the *Morning Chronicle* and then the *Nova Scotian* from which he had to step down due to his pro-confederation stance, handing over to fellow Father of Confederation, Joseph Howe. McCully then took on the editing role at the *Morning Journal* which he renamed the *Unionist*. Using this medium he was able to spread his views on Confederation to the public.

After Confederation in 1867 he was named to the Canadian Senate.

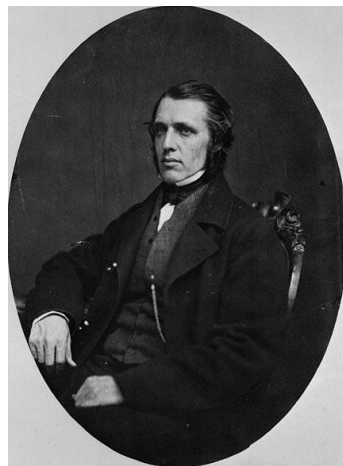
William McDougall

William McDougall received his early education in his hometown of Toronto and later in Cobourg. At 15, McDougall was an early witness to the Reform movement as a bystander at the burning of Montgomery's Tavern by Loyalists during the Rebellion of 1837.

Ten years later he started a career in law but soon moved to publishing for the newspaper *North American*. McDougall's involvement in politics began with his work in founding the Upper Canadian Clear Grit Reform movement. He sat in the Assembly of the Province of Canada from 1858-67 and served as the commissioner of crown lands, 1862-64.

With his dramatic shift from the political left to the Conservative party in 1867, McDougall received the nickname "Wandering Willie" which would stick with him for the rest of his political career. McDougall attended all three conferences on Confederation supporting unification of the British North American colonies. He caused a stir at the conferences with his calls for an elected, rather than appointed, senate in the new Canadian government.

After Confederation he orchestrated the purchase of the huge Hudson's Bay Company possession of Rupert's Land for annexation into Canada. He was appointed lieutenant governor of Rupert's Land in 1869 but came into conflict with Louis Riel and his rebels in the Red River Rebellion and had to return in disgrace to Ottawa.



Thomas D'Arcy McGee

Thomas D'Arcy McGee played an important role in the accomplishment of Confederation. Known both for his political prowess and his skill at poetry, McGee was an extremely talented speaker and has been called "the most gifted orator ever to sit in Canada's Parliament".

Born in Ireland to a coastguardsman, he fled at the age of 17 to North America due to the famine ravaging his homeland. After immigrating into the United States of America, McGee found work in the newspaper industry and two years later became the editor of the *Boston Herald*. In 1845 he returned to Ireland as editor of the *Nation*, a nationalist newspaper in Dublin. However, after only two years back in Ireland he once again had to leave after limited involvement in the failed revolt of the Young Ireland Party in 1848. Travelling disguised as a priest he returned to the United States.

Upon his return McGee spent time editing at several newspapers around the country. Five years later he moved to Montreal and began his own paper named *New Era*. In the paper he called for the federation of the British North American Colonies, a transcontinental railroad service, increased settling of the West, and the development of distinctive Canadian literature.

McGee was elected into the Legislative Assembly in the Province of Canada in 1858. He acted as president of the council in 1862-1863 and minister of agriculture from 1864 until Confederation. He was also part of the Great Coalition along with John A. Macdonald and George-Etienne Cartier. McGee was assassinated in 1868 by Fenian radical, P.J. Whelan for his public denouncements of the violent tactics of the Fenians.



Peter Mitchell

Peter Mitchell entered politics in an 1852 by-election, advocating for responsible government and reduced salaries for public officials. He was defeated at the polls. In his 1856 campaign, he emphasized his opposition to prohibition legislation, while distributing rum to electors on the campaign trail. He was elected as an independent for Northumberland and became a member of the legislative Council in 1861, serving as a minister in the governments of Charles Fisher and Samuel Leonard Tilley. As a politician, Mitchell became known for his headstrong personality and unwillingness to compromise with his opponents.

A strong supporter of Confederation, Peter Mitchell attended the Charlottetown and Québec Conferences in 1864. By 1865, Premier Samuel Leonard Tilley, who supported Confederation, found that a majority of the New Brunswick legislature had swung against it. Lieutenant-Governor Arthur Gordon believed that the issue of Confederation should “be put ‘squarely’ before the people” and pressured Tilley to dissolve his government, which had not been elected, it was argued, on a Confederation platform. After Tilley acquiesced and called a snap election, Mitchell criticized the lieutenant-governor for anti-Confederation bias and took his grievances to the British Home Office.

During the 1865 elections, politicians who supported Confederation, including Tilley and Mitchell, were defeated at the polls. After the anti-Confederation administration of Albert J. Smith collapsed in this political climate — popular opinion had shifted toward Confederation in New Brunswick, and the Smith administration could agree on little more than their dislike of federal union — Tilley turned down the premiership, and Gordon asked Mitchell to form a Conservative government.

Although Mitchell and Tilley had opposite views on prohibition and very different personalities, they shared a common commitment to Confederation and the building of the Intercolonial Railway. As a well-known businessman and director of the Merchants' Marine Insurance Company of Canada, Mitchell was in the ideal position to counter arguments from New Brunswick merchants that Confederation would undermine their economic interests. Mitchell attended the London Conference of 1866 but resented the fact that Sir John A. Macdonald treated Tilley, now provincial secretary, as the real leader of New Brunswick. Macdonald and Mitchell clashed over numerous points of policy, beginning an acrimonious relationship between the two men that lasted for decades.



Oliver Mowat

Although he participated in the Québec Conference, it was as premier of Ontario that Sir Oliver Mowat helped define the relationship between the provinces and the federal government. He was a champion of provincial rights and fought more than one battle with Canadian Prime Minister John A. Macdonald on this front.

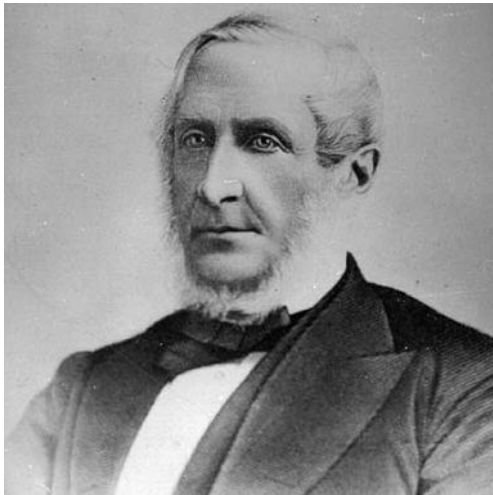
Throughout his political career, he would advocate the principle of rep by pop. Also in 1864, Oliver Mowat was appointed vice-chancellor of Ontario, an office he held until 1872 when he became premier of the province. He remained premier of Ontario until 1896, at which time he was named senator. He was minister of justice in Ottawa for one year, and in 1897, he was appointed lieutenant-governor of Ontario.



Edward Palmer

After receiving a local education in Charlottetown, Edward Palmer studied law with his father, an Irish-born attorney. At the age of 26 he began his career in politics by representing Charlottetown as a Tory in the Legislature. Palmer served for 35 years in the Island's government as solicitor-general, attorney-general, president of the council, as well as other positions of importance.

In 1849, Palmer became the leader of the Tories and ten years later emerged as the premier of the Island. In 1863 he was replaced as premier although he did still attend the Charlottetown Conference. Palmer was strongly opposed to the idea of Confederation and was forced to resign his position in the senate because of his views. Eventually Palmer sided with the unionists and voted in favour of P.E.I.'s entry into Confederation with better terms offered by Canada.



William Henry Pope

William Henry Pope did most of his studies in London, England, before returning to P.E.I. to read law under Edward Palmer, who would later be a fellow Father of Confederation. Pope was admitted to the bar on the Island in 1847 and then spent time as a land agent. He made a name for himself in a rather controversial real-estate deal in which he and his associates earned over £10,000.

From 1859-72 Pope edited the Liberal paper the *Islander* and in 1859 he was given the position of P.E.I.'s colonial secretary. In 1863 he won a seat in the Island's Assembly representing the district of Belfast.

Pope was an ardent supporter of the unification of the British North American colonies and had to resign from the cabinet in 1866 as this was an unpopular position at the time. Even after his resignation Pope continued to promote P.E.I.'s inclusion in Confederation and eventually in 1873 with younger brother James Colledge Pope as premier his hopes were fulfilled with the Island's joining the Dominion. At the Charlottetown Conference, Pope played the role of host for visitors to the Island.



John William Ritchie

John Ritchie is sometimes excluded from histories of the Fathers of Confederation because he did not attend the Charlottetown and Québec Conferences in 1864. Ritchie supported Confederation for economic reasons, arguing that a united Canada would have an advantage in trade negotiations over the individual British North American colonies.



In 1865, he represented Nova Scotia at the Confederate Council on Commercial Treaties, which met in Québec City and agreed that all the British North American colonies should have a common commercial policy with regards to a reciprocity agreement with the United States. Ritchie made his contribution to the negotiations for Canadian Confederation at the London Conference of 1866, where he was one of the Nova Scotia delegates. Ritchie replaced Robert Dickey, who questioned the financial terms that emerged from the Québec Conference. Along with the other Nova Scotia delegates, Ritchie helped finalize the terms for the union of the British North American colonies.

Sir John A. Macdonald rewarded John Ritchie for his support of Confederation with a Senate seat, which he held until 1870, when he became a judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

Ambrose Shea

Ambrose Shea (1815-1905), merchant and statesman, was born at St. John's, Newfoundland, on September 17, 1815, the son of Henry Shea.

He was educated in St. John's, and entered his father's business. He entered the assembly in 1848, as a member for Placentia, and was active in Newfoundland politics for many years. In 1855 he became speaker of the House, and in 1864 was one of the two Newfoundland delegates to the conference at Quebec. From 1865 to 1869 he was colonial secretary.

He was created a K.C.M.G. in 1883, and in 1886 was nominated governor of Newfoundland but was prevented by public sentiment from accepting the post. From 1887 to 1894 he was governor of the Bahamas and he died in London, England, on July 3, 1905. He was married twice, (1) in 1851 to Isabella Nixon of Edinburgh (d. 1877); and (2) to Louise, daughter of Joseph Bouchette, Surveyor General for Canada.



William H. Steeves

William H. Steeves began his professional life as a businessman but soon found a place for himself in politics. From 1846-51 he sat as a member of the New Brunswick Assembly representing Albert County. Steeves then moved to the legislative council in which he served until 1867. Between 1854-1865 he was part of the executive council.

In his political career Steeves served many roles. He was surveyor-general (1854-55), commissioner of public works (1855-56, 1857-63), and attended meetings discussing the Intercolonial railway in Quebec (1862) as a representative for New Brunswick. As a Father of Confederation, Steeves attended both the Charlottetown Conference and the Quebec Conference for New Brunswick. After Confederation, however, he went on to lead a rather unspectacular political career.



Étienne-Paschal Taché

Étienne-Paschal Taché had two careers, representing two very distinct periods of his life. From 1812 to 1841, he was a physician, and from 1841 to 1865, a politician. Because he died before 1867, his name is often forgotten when speaking of Confederation. All the same, he participated in every important political event under the Union.

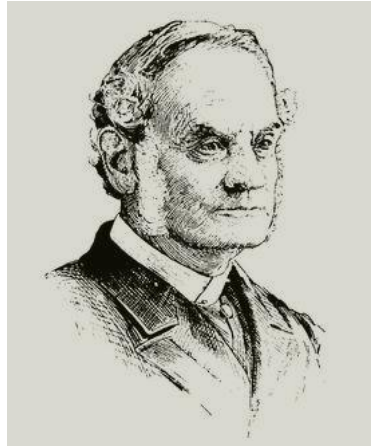
Taché entered active political life with the first elections under the Union. In 1864, Étienne-Paschal Taché helped create the Great Coalition. He remained a member of government, and although he agreed with the principles of the federal project, he was aware of the negative effect it might have on Lower Canada. He chaired the Québec Conference and was responsible for promoting the 72 Resolutions to the Legislative Council, while John A. Macdonald presented them to Parliament.



Samuel Leonard Tilley

Tilley was born at Gagetown, New Brunswick, on May 8, 1818. He became a pharmacist when he was 20 and ran a successful shop called "Tilley's Drug Store".

Tilley became interested in politics and fought for responsible government. He became premier in 1861 and was responsible for bringing New Brunswick into Confederation.



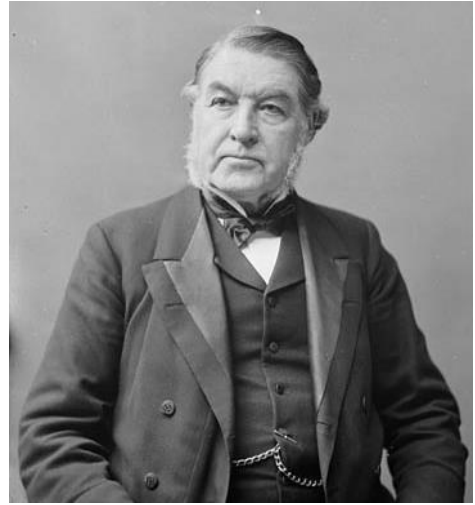
Tilley wanted New Brunswick to join Canada, but after he returned from talks with Canadian leaders he learned the people of New Brunswick were against Confederation. He lost the next election because the public didn't want New Brunswick to join Canada. However, a year later the people had changed their minds about Confederation. In a new election Tilley won and became premier again.

Tilley was finally able to bring New Brunswick into Confederation. When New Brunswick became part of Canada, Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald invited Tilley to be a member of the federal government. Tilley held several important jobs in the government, and later became the lieutenant-governor of New Brunswick in 1873. He retired in 1893 and died on June 25, 1896.

Charles Tupper

Tupper was born in Amherst, Nova Scotia, on July 2, 1821. He was the premier of Nova Scotia who agreed to Confederation.

His first job was as a doctor. Even after he became a politician, he still kept his medical bag under his seat in the House of Commons. He was a member of the Conservative party in Nova Scotia, and became premier in 1864.



Tupper was interested in joining Canada because he felt it would be good for Nova Scotia's economy. He participated in the Confederation conferences which led to Nova Scotia agreeing to join Confederation in 1867.

Once Nova Scotia was part of Canada Tupper quit his job as premier, and joined the federal Conservative party. He held several important jobs in the Conservative government of Sir John A. Macdonald. Tupper became prime minister in 1896. However he was only prime minister for ten weeks before losing the election that same year. Tupper retired from politics in 1900, and died on October 30, 1915.

Edward Whelan

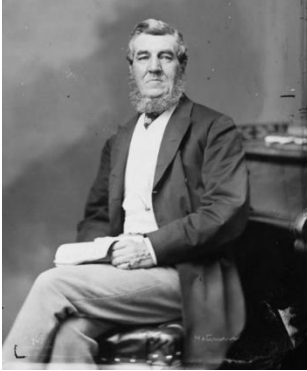
Edward Whelan was one of Prince Edward Island's delegates to the Québec Conference. As a journalist and legislator in Prince Edward Island, he strongly supported Confederation, which put him at odds with most of his own political party, a party he helped shape.



When union of the British North American colonies emerged as a practical political question in 1864, Edward Whelan became enthusiastic about the project, despite his initial skepticism. He anticipated that the Colonial Office — which had provided landlords with consistent backing against Reform measures — would no longer be “intermeddling [...] in our local legislation.”

Whelan was named a delegate to the Québec Conference, and despite his concern over the provisions for representation of the Island in federal legislative bodies — which he considered inadequate — he continued to support union, advocating the cause in the *Examiner*.

Robert Duncan Wilmot



First elected to the New Brunswick assembly as the representative for Saint John County and City in October 1846, Wilmot served continuously for the next 15 years. From early in his political career, Wilmot displayed a talent for switching sides; he campaigned against the Conservative government in 1850, then

accepted the post of surveyor general with that party the following year. He was among the opponents of responsible government, voting against several measures to introduce a ballot system. Whenever the topic of uniting the Maritime colonies arose, Wilmot preferred solutions that dissolved the individual legislatures in favour of a strong central government.

Wilmot returned to the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly in March 1865 via an election won by anti-Confederation candidates opposed to Premier Samuel Leonard Tilley's government. As with Maritime union, Wilmot believed the framework established by the Québec Resolutions had created a weak central government. While most of his fellow New Brunswick anti-Confederates, such as Albert James Smith, pushed for more provincial powers, Wilmot wanted to strip the Legislatures of their authority.

Under the new administration of Peter Mitchell, Wilmot was one of the delegates who attended the London Conference in December 1866 to set the final terms for Confederation.