

ROSE'S NATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL SERIES. I.

A CYCLOPÆDIA
OF
CANADIAN BIOGRAPHY:
BEING
CHIEFLY MEN OF THE TIME.

A COLLECTION OF PERSONS DISTINGUISHED IN PROFESSIONAL AND
POLITICAL LIFE; LEADERS IN THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
OF CANADA; AND SUCCESSFUL PIONEERS.

EDITED BY
GEO. MACLEAN ROSE.



Toronto:
ROSE PUBLISHING COMPANY.
1886.

U.V.O. LIBRARY

er of the position he
t a short
r occupa-
onto, and
He holds
p, Went-
e honour
Highness
o Hamil-
director
formerly
sociation.
, and has
secretary
a religion
a trustee
onto, for
independ-
to Helen
a family
While
ng their
l the po-
n, which
position
Mr. Mc-
ore Bank
d at the
don, to
n there,
ens, and
ties to
London,
some li-
nd also
e testi-
, at the
yal Ca-
ntation
by the
o, was
overlaid.
o. His
Thomp-
a sea
Fiddes,
officer
to until he
turned
Aber-
service of
nained
4. He
Fiddes
girls,
Alex-
l edu-

cation, and after leaving school at the age of thirteen, went to sea in the merchant service, but soon after he abandoned sea life, and went to Edinburgh, and began to learn the trade of plumbing. He remained here in the employ of Hay & Addis for five years, when the firm closed business. He then enlisted into the Haddingtonshire Artillery, and served his full five years. He then left the army, and went to Glasgow, where he finished his trade in the shop of one John Lockhart. After a time he went to Belfast, and remained there for a year, working at his trade. He then went to Liverpool, where he remained for some six months. He afterwards went to Manchester, and different cities in Great Britain, and in 1862 returned to Ireland. He settled in Belfast, where he remained for some time. After which he removed to Greenock, Scotland, where he remained for twelve months, then he once more returned to Belfast, and from thence, in 1873, sailed for America, landing in Toronto. Mr. Fiddes did not stay long in Toronto, but went on to Brantford, where he found employment in the workshops of the Grand Trunk Railway. Some time after this he returned to Toronto, and worked with John Ritchie & Son, as plumber. In 1881, he formed a partnership with Henry Hogarth, and this firm now carries on successfully a plumbing and gasfitting establishment. In religion, Mr. Fiddes is an independent, and in politics, a Reformer. He was married, in 1862, to Elizabeth Boyd, daughter of Henry Boyd, of Belfast, Ireland, and by this lady he has had seven of a family.

Sulte, Benjamin, Ottawa, President First Section Royal Society of Canada, was born at Three Rivers, Province of Quebec, on the 17th of September, 1841. He is the only living son of Benjamin Sulte, who was owner and captain of a schooner which plied between Quebec and Halifax, and Marie Lefebvre, whose ancestor was the first French settler at Baie du Febvre (Lefebvre's Bay, Lake St. Peter), in 1683. The first Sulte (Jean) came to Canada as a soldier, in 1756, in one of the regiments under the command of Montcalm. He settled in Three Rivers. Young Sulte left the Friars' school at the age of ten, and since that day he never was one week at a time without a salary. At ten he could read, write and calculate well; and by his connection with English speaking boys, he had a good knowledge of their language. He always devoted his evening hours to reading, and his readings are as a rule systematically chosen,

but history has his preference. He does everything very quickly, because he never takes up work without first having carefully prepared the material for it, and he frames a plan of action for every detail. There, then, can be no delay, no misunderstanding, no remodelling of the work. At first he was a clerk in a dry goods establishment, then in a grocery store. He then became a book keeper with G. A. Gouin & Co., a large lumbering firm. He subsequently became purser on board one of the vessels plying between Montreal and Three Rivers; then we find him a merchant, selling clothing in connection with the building of the Three Rivers and Arthabaska Railway; then, again, as book-keeper at Gouin's. This brings us down to 1864. As he had made some name for himself in 1859, by writing in the newspapers, he was considered in 1864 as a future newspaper editor, i. e., a politician, but he never had any fancy for politics, and once in stating the fact, he concluded by saying, "thank God that I never had." So he continued producing literary articles in prose and verse, in a regular Gatling gun shower. In 1863 two companies of infantry were organized at Three Rivers, and M. Sulte joined one of them; and in 1865 his company (No. 1), was sent to the Niagara frontier, and he was made color-sergeant of it. On his return in July, he went to the military school, Quebec; then followed, as an editor, the autumn session of Parliament, and in February next (1866), joined his company again at the Mississquoi frontier. In July, when the men returned home, he was called to Ottawa by L. N. Duvernay, proprietor of *Le Canada*, and he became the chief editor, as the Honourable E. Gérin was leaving for a tour in Europe. In those days a French paper in Ottawa was a large undertaking, because there was the whole valley of the Ottawa to attend to, whilst at present, Montreal, and even Quebec furnish reading matter in abundance, and hourly to the French population of that large region. On the 19th of November, 1867, M. Sulte entered the service of the House of Commons, as one of its translators; and on the 19th of May, 1870, he was removed from the House of Commons to the Department of Militia and Defence, where he is now employed. He is a staunch Roman catholic. The societies in which he took an active part are as follow:—From 1861-65, president *Cercle Littéraire*, Three Rivers; 1866, member (corresponding) of the *Cercle Artistique et Littéraire*, of Bruxelles, Belgium; 1866, secretary *Société St. Jean Baptiste*, Ottawa;

1874-76, president *Institut Canadien-Français*, Ottawa. In 1875-76, the building at present occupied by that institution was erected at a cost of \$23,000. In 1875, M. Sulte became a member of the *Literary and Historical Society*, Quebec; in 1876, a member (corresponding) *Société Normande de Géographie*, Rouen, France; in 1877, president of St. Joseph section *Société St. Jean Baptiste*, Ottawa, and also president of *St. Thomas Benevolent Society*, Ottawa; in 1878, a member of the *Société Historique de Montréal*, and *State Historical Society* of Wisconsin; in 1879, a corresponding delegate to *l'Institution Ethnographique de France*; in 1882, a member of the *Royal Society of Canada*; in 1883, president-general *St. Jean Baptiste* of Ottawa; and in 1885, he was made president of the first section of the *Royal Society of Canada*. In the year 1878 he visited the New England states, and delivered lectures in the French Canadian centres. Although he is a Conservative, since 1867 he has taken no part in political affairs. On the 3rd of May, 1871, he was married in Ottawa, to Augustine, youngest daughter of Etienne Parent, Under-Secretary of State. With reference to his wife's sisters, we may state that Josephine, the eldest, married Antoine Gérin-Lajoie, one of the best French-Canadian writers; and that the second, Mathilde, married Evariste Gélinas, a brilliant journalist and a capital essayist. M. Parent was looked upon as the best newspaper editor that ever conducted a campaign in French Canada. Etienne Henri Parent, M. Sulte's brother-in-law, is the chief engineer of the St. Lawrence canals, from Lake Ontario downwards. He studied in Paris. Our subject, as his friends say, is rather full of fire; ready to laugh, ready to fight. He never had a headache, and he has a voice which can fill any hall. His father was drowned 15th Nov., 1847, in the wreck of his vessel on the Gaspé coast. His mother is eighty, is in good health, no grey hairs yet. The first efforts of M. Sulte in the field of literature, were verses published in 1859-60, under various *noms de plume*. Soon after, in 1861, he signed his own name, and at once attracted the attention of those whose taste made them attentive to the revelation of coming men. The Honourable P. J. O. Chauveau, secured his productions for *Le Journal de l'Instruction Publique*, where he gave many good songs and patriotic verses. In 1864, was founded in Montreal *La Revue Canadienne*, and M. Sulte immediately became one of the most regular collaborators of that publication; and he is now the only

one of the old stock on the list. There he printed in 1868 his first article on the question of the destruction of our forests, a subject which at once made him known as a deep observer of the resources of Canada, and a strong prose writer. In 1870, appeared *Les Laurentiennes*, a very elegant volume, containing all the national and patriotic verses of M. Sulte. In the same year was published the first part of the "History of Three Rivers," his native city. The luxurious style of publication adopted by the author frightened the public, and the subscription was meagre, but M. Sulte only answered: "Wait, and you will pay five times the same amount of money for the same work in a few years." We are told he is sure of that result now. In 1873, was distributed in Europe a pamphlet, entitled *Le Canada en Europe*, a very sharp criticism by M. Sulte, of the nonsense published in Europe about Canada. Several pamphlets appeared afterwards from his pen, such as "The History of the French-Canadians in Ottawa," and "Notes on Early Travels in the North-West Territories." In 1876, he published *Les Chants Nouveaux*, a continuation of *Les Laurentiennes*. A good volume is the one published in 1876, under the title of *Mélanges d'Histoire et de Littérature*, the whole is relative to Canada. Another book called *Chronique Trifluvienne* was printed in 1879, telling about the events which took place in Three Rivers, between the years 1640 and 1665. We have heard this work highly praised. In 1881, he published a large album, of unknown plans and sketches relating to the 17th century on the St. Lawrence. The first volume of *Histoire des Canadiens-Français* was published in 1882, and the 8th and last one in the spring of 1885. It covers the whole history of Canada, but deals principally with the settlers, and very little with other matters pertaining to the history of that country. Other works of M. Sulte, such as large indexes to series of historical documents, have been put in circulation. We hear he is now preparing three volumes of his articles spread, since 1860, in various reviews, both in Canada, United States and France.

Denison, Lt.-Col. George Taylor, of Bellevue, Toronto, was born at Dovercourt, Harwich, England, 27th December, 1783. He was one of the earliest inhabitants of Toronto. His father, Captain John Denison, left England to settle in Canada in 1792, and after living four years in Kingston, came to Toronto in 1796. Lt.-Col. Denison served in the war of 1812 as an