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The Blackwood family became prominent landowners in Ulster over the following two hundred years, and were created baronets in , entering the Peerage of Ireland in as Baron Dufferin. The family had influence in parliament because they controlled the return for the borough of Killyleagh. Marriages in the Blackwood family were often advantageous to their landowning and high-society ambitions. His mother, Helen Selina Sheridan , was the granddaughter of the playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan and through her the family became connected to English literary and political circles. Dufferin was born Frederick Temple Blackwood in in Florence , then capital of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany in the Italian peninsula , with great advantages. He was educated at Eton and at Christ Church , Oxford , where he became president of the Oxford Union Society for debate, although he left Oxford after only two years without obtaining a degree. While still an Oxford undergraduate, he visited Skibbereen in County Cork to see the impact of the Irish Famine first-hand. He was appalled by what he saw, prompting him to raise money on behalf of the starving poor. Dufferin sailed close to Jan Mayen Island , but was unable to land there due to heavy ice and caught only a very brief glimpse of the island through the fog. With its irreverent style and lively pace, it was extremely successful and can be regarded as the prototype of the comic travelogue. It remained in print for many years and was translated into French and German. The letters were nominally written to his mother, with whom he had developed a very close relationship after the death of his father when he was . Instead he became a public servant, with his first major public appointment in as British representative on a commission to Syria to investigate the causes of a civil war earlier that year in which the Maronite Christian population had been subject to massacres by the Muslim and Druze populations. He upheld Turkish rule in the area, and prevented the French from establishing a client state in Lebanon , later securing the removal of a French occupying force in Syria. He also defended the interests of the Druze community, with whom Britain had a long association. The other parties on the commission were inclined to repress the Druze population, but Dufferin argued that had the Christians won the war they would have been just as bloodthirsty. The long-term plan agreed by the commission for the governance of the region was largely that proposed by Dufferin – that Lebanon should be governed separately from the rest of Syria, by a Christian Ottoman who was not a native of Syria. He was distantly related to the Hamilton family by previous marriages, and the union was partly designed to eliminate some long-standing hostilities between the families. Dufferin also took the name of Temple, on 13 November Lord Ava died a week later. They had no issue. He returned to active service as a lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards and was killed in action in Frederick Hamilton-Temple-Blackwood, 3rd Marquess of Dufferin and Ava 26 February – 21 July Shortly after his marriage, he was deeply upset when his mother married his friend George Hay, Earl of Gifford , a man some 17 years her junior. The marriage scandalised society, but Lord Gifford died only weeks afterward. He became Governor General of Canada in , and his six-year tenure was a period of rapid change in Canadian history. He consciously set out to assume a more active role, and to get to know ordinary Canadians as much as possible. At a time when a weak or uncharismatic Governor General might have loosened the ties to Empire, Dufferin felt that involving himself with the people of the Dominion would strengthen constitutional links to Britain. He visited every Canadian province, and was the first Governor General to visit Manitoba. He established an Office of the Governor General in a wing of the Parliament buildings, and Lady Dufferin attended many debates and reported back to him. In , the Pacific scandal arose when the Conservative government of John A. Macdonald was accused by the Liberal opposition of financial impropriety in relation to the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Dufferin prorogued parliament, and established an enquiry which found against the Government, and Macdonald fell from power. These medals are the most prestigious that school students can be awarded, and more than 50, have been awarded. He added a ballroom in , and in built the Tent Room to accommodate the increasing number of functions being held at the Hall. Public use of the rink was on condition of being "properly

dressed". When Quebec city officials began to demolish the old city walls , Dufferin was appalled, persuading them to stop the demolition, and to repair and restore what had already been damaged Old Quebec was eventually recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in Visiting Manitoba in September , Lord and Lady Dufferin each drove a spike in the line of the new Canadian Pacific Railway, and the first engine on the railway was christened Lady Dufferin. Throughout her time in Canada, Lady Dufferin wrote letters to her mother in Ireland, which were later collected and published as My Canadian Journal. She later said that of all her experiences, her happiest times had been spent in Canada. Lord Dufferin is particularly well remembered in Manitoba, being the first Governor General to visit the province; a statue of him is outside the provincial legislature. He served as ambassador to Imperial Russia from to and to the Ottoman Empire from to Although he had previously served in Liberal governments, Dufferin had become increasingly alienated from William Ewart Gladstone over issues of home and Irish policy, particularly the Irish Land Acts of and , both of which tried to resolve issues surrounding the property rights of tenants and landlords. He accepted the appointment as ambassador to Russia from the Conservative Benjamin Disraeli , further alienating the Liberal leader. While in Russia, he began to set his sights on the ultimate diplomatic prize, the Viceroyalty of India. His posting there saw Britain invade and occupy Egypt, then technically part of the Ottoman Empire , under the pretext of "restoring law and order" following anti-foreign riots in Alexandria which had left nearly 50 foreigners dead, and Dufferin was heavily involved in the events surrounding the occupation. Dufferin managed to ensure that the Ottoman Empire did not attain a military foothold in Egypt, and placated the population of Egypt by preventing the execution of Urabi Pasha , who had seized control of the Egyptian army. Urabi had led the resistance to foreign influence in Egypt, and after the occupation many in the Cabinet were keen to see him hanged. Dufferin, believing this would only inspire further resistance, instead ensured that Urabi was exiled to Ceylon. In Dufferin travelled to Egypt as British commissioner, to investigate the reorganization of the country. He wrote a report detailing how the occupation was to benefit Egypt, with plans for development which were to progressively re-involve Egyptians in running the country. Subsequent reforms proceeded largely along the lines he had proposed. Viceroy of India [edit] Viceregal Lodge , Shimla. Lord Dufferin moved in on 23 July In , he finally achieved his last great diplomatic ambition with his appointment as Viceroy of India. His predecessor as Viceroy, Lord Ripon , while popular with the Indians, was very unpopular with the Anglo-Indians , who objected to the rapid pace of his extensive reforms. To rule with any success, Dufferin would need to gain the support of both communities. By all accounts he was highly successful in this regard, and gained substantial support from all communities in India. He advanced the cause of the Indian Nationalists greatly during his term, without antagonising the conservative whites. Among other things, the Indian National Congress was founded during his term in , and he laid the foundations for the modern Indian Army by establishing the Imperial Service Corps , officered by Indians. He was frequently occupied with external affairs during his tenure. He handled the Panjdeh Incident of in Afghanistan , in which Russian forces encroached into Afghan territory around the Panjdeh oasis. Britain and Russia had for decades been engaged in a virtual cold war in Central Asia and India , known as the Great Game , and the Panjdeh incident threatened to precipitate a full-blown conflict. Dufferin negotiated a settlement in which Russia kept Panjdeh but relinquished the furthest territories it had taken in its advance. His tenure also saw the annexation of Upper Burma in , after many years of simmering warfare and British interventions in Burmese politics. The report highlighted the plight of the poor in Bengal , and was used by nationalists to counter the Anglo-Indian claim that British rule had been beneficial to the poorest members of Indian society. Following publication of the report, Dufferin recommended the establishment of provincial and central councils with Indian membership, a key demand of Congress at that time. His wife Lady Dufferin, Vicereine of India , accompanied her husband on his travels in India and made her own name as a pioneer in the medical training of women in India. Her extensive travel writings and photographs, in addition to her medical work, challenge some traditional assumptions about the role of women in colonial life. After he retired from the diplomatic service in , he received several offers from financial speculators hoping to use his high reputation to attract investors to their companies. In , worried about the family financial situation, he was persuaded to become chairman of the London and Globe Finance Corporation, a mining promotion and holding company controlled

by Whitaker Wright , but in November shares in the company crashed and led to its insolvency. It subsequently transpired that Wright was a consummate fraudster. Dufferin lost substantial money on his holdings in the company, but was not guilty of any deception and his moral standing remained unaffected. Dufferin returned to his country house at Clondeboye , near Bangor , in poor health, and died on 12 February 1842. Lady Dufferin died on 25 October 1842. Dufferin and the ghost[edit] Dufferin often told a tale of how he once saw a ghost which saved his life. Late one night in , while staying in a house in Tullamore, County Offaly, Ireland, he heard a hearse draw up, and looked down and saw a man walking across the lawn carrying a coffin on his back. The man stopped and looked up at Dufferin and their eyes met for a moment, before he continued on into the shadows and disappeared. Dufferin thought the whole event might have been just a bad dream, but the next morning his hostess assured him that the next time he saw the apparition, he would die. Some years later Dufferin, then British ambassador to France, recognised the lift operator at the Grand Hotel in Paris as the man he had seen in the garden in Ireland. He refused to get into the lift and a moment later it crashed, killing the occupants including the mysterious man, who had only begun work at the hotel that morning.

2: Canada Under the Administration of the Earl of Dufferin

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7: Frederick Hamilton-Temple-Blackwood, 1st Marquess of Dufferin and Ava - Wikipedia

Consists mainly of the speeches made by Lord Dufferin, as governor general on his journeys throughout the Dominion. Filmed from a copy of the original publication held by the National Library of Canada

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