

NAME:HEAD, Edmund Walker

PARISH:London

ENTERED SERVICE: 1830

DATES: b.1805 d. 1868

Appointments & Service

Outfit Year*:

Position:

Post:

District:

HBCA Reference:

**An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May*

RT. HON. SIR EDMUND WALKER HEAD, BART., K.C.B.

Sir Edmund Walker Head was born on 16 February 1805, only son of the Reverend Sir John Head, Bart., of Boughton, perpetual curate of Egerton, Kent, and rector of Rayleigh, Essex, and Jane, only daughter of Thomas Walker of London.

Sir Edmund was educated at Winchester and Oriel College, Oxford, where in 1827 he graduated B.A. with a first-class degree in classics. In 1830 he became M.A. and was elected to a fellowship at Merton College in the same year, a position which he held until 1837.

In 1835 he entered at Lincoln's Inn, but was never called to the Bar. In 1836 he was appointed assistant poor-law commissioner and in November 1841 he was promoted to full commissioner.

Head succeeded his father as eighth baronet on 4 January 1838 and married, in November of the same year, Anna Maria, daughter of the Reverend John Yorke, by whom he had one son and two daughters.

In October 1847 Sir Edmund was offered the governorship of New Brunswick, which he accepted, and having filled the post with much success, was appointed, in September 1854, Governor-General of Canada. Whilst on a visit to England he was sworn in as a Privy Councillor on 28 August 1857. In 1861 he retired, returning to England in November 1861 and in 1862 was appointed a Civil Service Commissioner.

The International Financial Society was formed in 1863 and in its first fortnight of operation in carried through the purchase of the Hudson's Bay Company's shares. The new directorate was headed by Sir Edmund Walker Head and five nominees of the International Financial Society.

Sir Edmund was elected Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company on 2 July 1863, a position he held until he died, suddenly, of a heart disease, on 28 January 1868. The baronetcy became extinct at his death.

