

resigned the Premiership of Ontario and seat in Assem., 25 Oct., 1872. Sworn of the Privy Council, 7 Nov., 1873, and was a mem. of Mr. Mackenzie's Administration (without office and without salary) from that date until Feb., 1874, when he resigned. Declined the Chancellorship of Ontario, Dec., 1869, and the Chief Justiceship of the Supreme Court of the Dominion, May, 1875. Apptd. Minister of Justice, 19 May, 1875. Resigned, Sept., 1877, and exchanged to the portfolio of Presdt. of Council. Resigned Presidency of Council, 31 Jan., 1878, in consequence of continued ill-health. Visited England on public business, 1876. Returned for South Bruce and for West Durham in Leg. Assem., at g. e., 1871 (elected to sit for former place.) First returned to the Commons for West Durham at g. e., 1867; re-elected by acclamation, and also returned for South Bruce at g. e., 1872 (elected to sit for last-named seat), for which he was again returned at g. e., 1874; re-elected by acclamation on his being apptd. to office, 2 June, 1872. Was a candidate for South Bruce at g. e., 1878, when he was defeated. Elected to present seat on resignation of sitting member, Mr. Burk, 17 Nov., 1879. Re-elected at last g. e. Elected leader of the Opposition, 1880. The following statement of Mr. Blake's political views is summarized from his speeches as a private member: "An Independent Liberal; believes that the basis of the franchise should be widened, and that efficiency instead of influence should be the passport to the public service; thinks political progress essential to political vitality, and advocates the fullest freedom of discussion on all topics affecting the public interests; supports the adoption of a system of proportional representation, whereby, among other improvements, the strength of the various opinions held by the people may be more nearly represented in Parliament; considers that, as the franchise is not merely a right, but a trust, the wilful neglect to vote should be followed by temporary disfranchisement; is opposed to the appointment of Senators for life by the Administration, and desires their selection for a term of years by the Provinces; thinks that the future of Canada depends very largely on the development of the great North-West; advocates the construction, as rapidly as the resources of the country will permit, of the sections of the Pacific Railway necessary for communication between that country and our interior seaboard, in conjunction with an extensive scheme of exploration and colonization; believes that the cultivation of a national spirit is requisite to the success of the Union;