

diffident and anxious to a degree quite incompatible with his undoubted ability, arising possibly from a conscientious desire to promote to the utmost of his power, the interests of his clients. Mr. Blake enjoys at this moment, the highest reputation amongst all classes of his brethren at the Bar irrespective of their political creeds and opinions.

Mr. Blake commenced his political career in 1867, having been elected for West Durham, to the House of Commons, and for South Bruce in the local Parliament, at the first general election after the Confederation. In 1871, he was returned to the local House from South Bruce, and by acclamation to the Commons from West Durham, but decided to sit for the former only. At the opening of the ensuing session, he moved an amendment in reply to the speech from the Throne, which was carried; the Ministry in power did not resign without accepting a defeat on a motion of dismissal, upon which they vacated office, and Mr. Blake became Premier of Ontario; and President of the Council (without salary), but resigned both, as well as his seat in the Ontario Assembly, in October, 1874. At the election in 1872, was re-elected as member for West Durham, and simultaneously to the House of Commons for South Bruce; preferring the latter seat for special reasons, by repeated re-elections, represented that constituency uninterruptedly until the general election of 1878, when he was defeated; but at the special election in Nov., 1879, he was again returned by acclamation to the Commons.

Hon. Edward Blake was sworn of the Privy Council in November, 1873, and was a member (without office) of Mr. Mackenzie's administration from that date, until February, 1874, when he resigned. In May, 1875, he was induced to accept the portfolio of Minister of Justice in the same Government, and in 1876 went to England on political business; in June, 1877, exchanged this portfolio for the office of President of the Council, which he was compelled to relinquish in January, 1878, on account of ill health.

Mr. Blake is a member of the Anglican church, and President of the Young Men's Christian Association, of Toronto.

His wife is a daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Cronyn, Lord Bishop of Huron.

JAMES G. CRANSTON, M.D.,

ARNPRIOR.

JAMES GOLDIE CRANSTON, the leading physician and surgeon at Arnprior, was born in Madrid, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., March 21, 1837. His parents were William and Jane (Goldie) Cranston, both from Roxborough, Scotland. His mother died in the State of New York, and when he was eight years old, his father, with two daughters and three sons, came to Canada West, and settled in Haldimand county, where he died in 1855.