

violent wrench to public opinion. The Liberals, who lost no time in turning the Tannery Land Swap episode to their own advantage, counted upon seizing the reins of power in Quebec as well as at Ottawa. The honourable Mr. Ouimet, whose integrity was unquestioned, as was that of his colleagues, thought it his duty to give up the seals of office, and Mr. de Boucherville was called upon to form a new cabinet. His task was not a light one: he had to select new men, capable, although untried, of filling the most trying positions.

Almost every Conservative chief of note had held portfolios under the preceding government. But the new Premier did a wise thing in securing the valuable services of Montmorency's able representative. For the Conservatives, the outlook was cheerless indeed. The Liberals, with every reason, felt elated over the clean sweep they had made of their opponents in the Federal elections, and were led to redouble their efforts to carry the Conservative citadel of Quebec. In the latter, despondency and incertitude reigned supreme. It was with repugnance that the honourable Mr. Mailhiot was induced to accept the temporary leadership of the House. Although an eminent lawyer, and subsequently a distinguished ornament of the Bench, he had no haste for the jarring strifes that he was called upon to encounter, and counted upon his youthful colleague, the Solicitor-General, to do the most of the hard fighting. He was not deceived in his man. Mr. Angers marched defiantly in the van of battle. This his first session was not lost upon him: it enlarged his knowledge of parliamentary usages and initiated him into the language of political debate. His maiden speech, however, which had been carefully written out and committed to memory, read well enough in print, but lacked action and fire in the delivery. But he did not allow himself to be disconveyed. Practice and experience placed him, before the close of the session, in the front rank of orators.

The term of the Legislature was now about expiring, and the de Boucherville administration would soon have to face, for the first time, the fire of the enemy on the hustings and at the polls. The Conservatives were unfortunately divided in their counsels, whilst the Liberals, backed by the prestige of the Mackenzie régime, were united and aggressive. But did victory fail to perch on the banners of conservatism, the fault would not lie at Mr. Angers' door. He