

PUBLIC MEN AND PUBLIC LIFE IN CANADA

the substitution of a Legislative Council elected by the people for the antiquated system of Crown nomination. Besides these measures the tide of agitation had already set in for non-sectarian education, no grants of public money to ecclesiastical corporations, and representation by population—or, in other words, that the representation in Parliament of Upper and Lower Canada should be based on the number of their respective inhabitants.

Mr. Hincks and his ministry claimed to represent the Reform party, and were admittedly pledged to settle the Reserves, Rectories, Seigniorial Tenure and Legislative Council questions. Like their Reform predecessors, however, they had delayed legislation on one ground and another until many Reformers became weary, and doubts of their sincerity began to be entertained. Sir Allan McNab and his supporters constituted the regular Opposition. They denounced the proposed abolition of the Reserves and Rectories (which had in the days of the Family Compact been set aside from the public lands for the establishment of the Church of England) as little short of spoliation and sacrilege, and stigmatized the Reform leaders, especially Premier Hincks, as being, to use the language of the time, "steeped to the lips in corruption." The dissentient Reformers, led by Mr. Brown, based their opposition to Mr. Hincks and his colleagues on the ground that they had broken faith with the Reform party, that they were either unable or unwilling to carry the great measures of reform to which they were solemnly pledged, and that, among other ministerial abuses,