

In April '82, when he had been only a little over six years at the bar, he was unanimously chosen as one of the Liberal candidates for Annapolis County for the Provincial legislature, and, although the country was then represented in both the Dominion and Provincial parliaments by Conservatives, and the influence of both Governments, at Ottawa and Halifax, were hostile, he succeeded in securing his election and came back at the head of the poll with Mr. Henry Munroe as a colleague.

The result of the election, in 1882, was the defeat of the Holmes-Thompson government. Mr. Albert Gayton was asked to form an administration, but he called a convention of the Liberal members elected and cast upon them the burden of forming the administration, which is about the only precedent on record of this method of forming a Government.

An administration was formed with Mr. W. T. Pipes as Premier, without office, and A. J. White, Albert Gayton and Charles E. Church as the three Departmental heads of the administration. In the formation of this government, neither Mr. Longley nor Mr. W. S. Fielding, who had been elected for Halifax at the same time, were included, but no one believed that an administration could go on long without these gentlemen, and, as a consequence, we find Mr. Fielding very soon after sworn in a member of the administration and Mr. Longley, in 1884, also became a member of the administration, Mr. Pipes having retired and Mr. Fielding, having been called upon to form a Government, invited Mr. Longley to be one of his colleagues. Just prior to the election of 1886, an office was found for Mr. A. J. White and Mr. Longley was asked to accept the office of Attorney General. His election in Annapolis County was most bitterly contested, with the result that he was elected by a majority of sixteen and his colleague, Mr. Munroe, was defeated by Mr. F. Andrews, also a graduate of Acadia College, by a majority of four. Since then Mr. Longley has steadily held the office. He was re-elected in 1890 by the large majority of 262, and on this occasion, Mr. H. H. Chute was his colleague. This gentleman was one of the benefactors of Acadia College and was Governor of the institution at his death two years later. At the general election of 1894 Mr. Longley was again returned by a majority of 252 with Mr. J. A. Bancroft as his colleague.

In 1896, it is believed somewhat against his better judgment, Mr. Longley was induced to resign his office of Attorney General, and his seat in the Provincial legislature, in order to carry the Liberal standard for the House of Commons. The Liberal party having been steadily beaten at four consecutive general elections, it was felt no pains or sacrifice should be wanting to secure success in this last great struggle. It was freely talked over the Dominion that Mr. Laurier would have the active co-operation of leading Provincial Ministers in the various provinces. Sir Oliver Mowat, the Premier of Ontario, announced his willingness to join Mr. Laurier in any administration he might be called upon to form, and it was understood