

rose to the front rank in his profession, degrees and high positions being offered him, most of which, however, he refused. He frequently appeared before the judicial committee of the Privy Council, his most famous case undoubtedly being his defense of the Catholics in the Manitoba School case in 1895.

The year 1867 marked the entrance of Blake into politics, of which he was to make such a success. In that year he was elected to the House of Commons and also to the Legislature. He accepted the leadership of the Liberals in the latter body, but after a few years of provincial politics he resigned in order to devote himself entirely to Federal politics. Though premier for but a short time he is considered the father of Liberalism in Ontario.

He refused the proffered leadership of the Liberals in the Dominion House but became the strongest worker for the party, being in great measure responsible for the defeat of Sir John A. MacDonalld, after the Pacific scandal. In 1875 he accepted the position of Minister of Justice under the Mackenzie administration, and in this capacity did much toward perfecting the constitution of the Supreme court. In 1888 he became leader of the Liberal party, a position which he filled most creditably for nine years. He then announced his retirement from politics but in 1892 he accepted an invitation to represent an Irish seat in the British House of Commons.

From 1892 to the present Edward Blake has been one of the strongest workers in the Irish ranks and a staunch supporter of Home Rule. Through his great abilities as a lawyer and a statesman he became engaged in affairs of the greatest importance. Much of his fame rests on his amendment to an address in reply to the speech from the throne, protesting against unfair taxation in Ireland. He was chosen mediator in disputes in the Transvaal and in New Zealand.

Laurier or MacDonalld drew men to them by their personal magnetism and their "sunny ways". Blake held the support of his party and others by his straight forwardness and fearlessness and by the force and clearness of his arguments. It is chiefly as a statesman as distinguished from a politician that he is held in esteem. He has always stood to his broad-minded principles and could not be cowed. His wonderful knowledge of law and his mastery of detail, has made him a very dangerous antagonist, and this is particularly