

the electors, as Attorney-General, on the 24th March, he was again elected. As a Minister of the Crown Mr. Blair became an immediate success. By the amiability of his manner he won many friends, and he had not been in power a half year before he gave evidence of his determination to control the ship of state, until he cared no more to hold his position. His colleagues, with fine discernment, were chosen from both the existing political parties, the Liberals, however, as was perhaps natural under the circumstances, preponderating. They got on harmoniously together, friction rarely occurring, and though no legislation of very great moment or importance took place, several acts for the facilitation of business, which owed their paternity to the Attorney-General, were passed. His government grew in strength, and when, in 1886, the Legislature was dissolved and general elections followed, Mr. Blair found himself and his colleagues more firmly entrenched than ever in the esteem of his people. In October, 1887, he proceeded to Quebec with the Hon. David McLellan, Provincial Secretary, to attend the Interprovincial Conference called by the Hon. Honoré Mercier, then Prime Minister of Quebec Province. The meetings, which were presided over by Hon. Oliver Mowat, now Sir Oliver, Premier of Ontario, were held in the Parliament Buildings. In the proceedings Mr. Blair took a very active part, and though the results of the Conference disappointed the promoters, the idea, in the main, was good, and it certainly made the public men of Canada, living and working in the various sections of our common country, and carrying on governments under different lines, better acquainted with one another. If the Convention of Colonial statesmen accomplished nothing more than that, it did well, for the representatives of our parliamentary institutions, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, were present, and took part in the deliberations from day to day. Nor was the purely social part of the Conference neglected. Receptions, at homes, luncheons and dinners afforded the citizens of Quebec the opportunity of meeting the delegates from British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova-Scotia, and New-Brunswick, and exchanging opinions and views on the questions of the day. Prince-Edward-Island alone held aloof, her government sending no delegate and declining to be represented. The Premier of the tight little island at that time was Mr. W. W. Sullivan, Q.C., afterwards Chief Justice. He was not in sympathy with the political views of Messrs. Mercier