

1874; and again elected in 1878 after a hard fight, when so many candidates for parliamentary honours went down before the onset of the "National Policy." He was elected for the last time to the House of Commons in 1882, and appointed Minister of Education for Ontario, as successor to the Hon. Adam Crooks, Q.C., in November, 1883. On the 15th of December, 1883, Mr. Ross was elected to the Legislative Assembly for West Middlesex, and was re-elected in 1886, and also in 1890. The public-spirited policy and statesmanlike qualities of this gentleman are evinced by the character of the bills he has at various times introduced both in the House of Commons and the Provincial Legislature. It was he who, in 1882, first brought forward a resolution in the Dominion Parliament, asking for the opening of negotiations looking to the establishment of reciprocal trade between Canada and the United States. It was the introduction of this resolution, indeed, that subsequently gave rise to the agitation in favour of reciprocity. In 1885 he introduced a bill for the consolidation of the Public Schools Acts, the High Schools Act, the Separate Schools Act, and the Act Respecting Mechanics' Institutes. In 1887, Mr. Ross introduced a bill authorizing the federation of the University of Toronto and the affiliation of the denominational colleges with that national institution. He was also instrumental in placing on the statute book, in 1891, a bill respecting truancy and compulsory attendance at school. For some years Mr. Ross was engaged in educational and journalistic work. At one time he was editor of the *Strathroy Age*; later on, he was part proprietor of the *Huron Expositor*. In educational journalism he was eminently successful, having conducted, with Mr. McColi, of Strathroy, the *Ontario Teacher*, a publication which was strongly edited and proved of great service to the profession. His practical work as a journalist recalls the fact of his being chairman of the joint committee on printing of the Senate and the House of Commons. He was also an Honorary Commissioner at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, held in London, England, in 1886. Politically, Mr. Ross is a pronounced Reformer. He has also been for many years thoroughly identified with the temperance movement in Canada. In 1879 he was elected Most Worthy Patriarch of the National Division of the Sons of Temperance of North America, and presided over their deliberations for two years. As relates to his religious views, it may be said that Mr. Ross is a Presbyterian, holding the honourable position of elder in St. Andrew's Church, in this city, and is known as a devoted, earnest christian. He is also connected with two civic societies, the Masons and Odd Fellows. In 1862 Mr. Ross was united

in marriage to Christina Campbell, daughter of Duncan Campbell, Esq., of the township of East Williams, county of Middlesex, Ont., who died in 1872. He was married again, in 1875, to Catharine Boston, of Melrose, county of Middlesex, Ont., daughter of William Boston, Esq. In all the relations of life Mr. Ross has maintained an enviable reputation. He impresses those who come in contact with him, as a thoroughly energetic, self-reliant and capable man. He is exceedingly genial and pleasant, entirely lacking in self-consciousness and not at all puffed up with a sense of his ability, scholarly attainments or exalted station; but modestly ascribes his success in life to faithfulness, perseverance and hard work, combined with a trust in God that can know little of fear or failure. Difficulties have only aroused him to nobler resolve and higher endeavour. To his important office, as Minister of Education, Mr. Ross brings the equipment of a strong character, a well-stored and cultivated mind, and a large experience; together with a genuine enthusiasm in educational matters and great gifts as a public speaker and debater; all of which are essential and invaluable qualities in a public officer and departmental administrator. It is to be hoped that many years of active service are yet before the honourable and worthy gentleman.

PETER C. BLAICHER,

*Hamilton, Ont.*

ENDOWED with natural abilities of a high order, possessed of a good education, with an honourable reputation in commercial and business circles, the gentleman whose name appears above has for a number of years been a recognized leader in connection with the affairs of the city of Hamilton. Peter Campbell Blaicher was born in the township of Saltfleet, Wentworth county, August 1, 1835, his parents being George David Blaicher and his wife Sarah Ann, whose maiden name was Campbell. They were natives of New Brunswick, and came to Upper Canada a few weeks before the subject of our sketch was born. The family consisted of eight children, of whom three sons and two daughters are still living. On reaching Saltfleet, the family settled at what was known as "Sandy Campbell's Corners," called so after Mrs. Blaicher's father, who had come there to reside some years before. After remaining at the "Corners" until the year 1846, Mr. Blaicher removed with his family to the township of Binbrook, settling in the vicinity of Hall's Corners, and there he remained until 1863, working at his trade of carpenter and builder. In the latter year the father and mother removed to Windsor with one of their sons, who