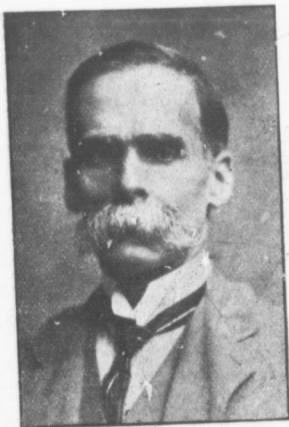


## The New Minister of the Interior.

**M**R. FRANK OLIVER, M.P. for Edmonton, N.W.T., was on Saturday sworn of the Privy Council and appointed Minister of the Interior to succeed Hon. Clifford Sifton. In some quarters the prime minister's choice occasioned surprise, as Mr. Oliver has not always agreed with the course of the Administration, especially in matters of immigration. In his paper the Edmonton Bulletin, he has frequently criticized the government sharply. In 1900,



HON. FRANK OLIVER, M.P.

The new Minister of the Interior, whose re election is fixed for April 25, if opposed, May 2.

however, he accepted the convention and ran as a straight Liberal, and since then has been in touch with his party. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is too big a man to

bear small grudges, and, anyway, the record shows that the Premier tolerates reasonable divergence of opinion on the part of his supporters. Then it has been the view of many in parliament that Mr. Oliver has broadened and bettered during the past five years as a federal man.

In knowledge of the Northwest and Manitoba the new minister must be well up. A quarter of a century ago he was a printer on the staff of the Manitoba Free Press. Subsequently he founded a pioneer paper in Edmonton when that town was a small settlement. The paper, in size, could have been covered with two hands. It managed to keep out the bailiff and is today a prosperous journal. Over 20 years ago Mr. Oliver was returned to the Northwest Council and remained a member for several years. He was first elected to the House of Commons in 1896 and has since been twice re-elected. As printer, editor, publisher, and politician, Mr. Oliver's career reflects great credit on his pluck, industry and perseverance. He carried Edmonton last November by the largest majority of any candidate in the Dominion.

The Toronto press is claiming that the vote in Edmonton is controlled by French half breeds. Other Opposition papers say that the Galicians and Donkobors are the main body of voters. A reference to the census shows what wild statements are manufactured by the party press. At the date of the census, 1901, there was no constituency of Edmonton. It is, however, the northern half of Alberta, and Alberta is shown to have had in 1901 a total population of 65,000 of which 3,700 were French half breeds. Aside from Indians there were 60,000 persons in Alberta and "Canadians" were given as numbering 51,000. There were from the United States alone