

B. in Tp. of Adelaide, Middlesex, Ont., 13 Oct., 1833. Ed. at University of Toronto, where he took first-class honors in classics, and received the degree of M.A. 1858. M., Margaret, dau. of the late Right Rev. B. Cronyn, Lord Bishop of Huron. Called to the Bar, U.C., in Michaelmas Term, 1856; created Q.C., 1864. Elected a Bencher of the Law Society of Ont., 1871. Senior partner in the extensive law firm of Blake, Kerr & Boyd, Toronto. Was for a short time one of the examiners in, and lecturers on, Equity Law, for the U.C. Law Society. Returned for South Bruce in Ont. Assembly at g.e., 1867, and was leader of the Opposition in that body from 1868 until 20 Dec., 1871; when called upon to form a Govt. for Ont., which he succeeded in doing, accepting for himself the position of Presdt. of the Ex. Council in the same (without salary); resigned the Premiership of Ont. and his seat in Local House, 25 Oct., 1874. Returned for South Bruce, and for West Durham in Local Assembly at g. e., 1871 (elected to sit for former place). First returned to House of Commons for West Durham at g. e., 1867; re-elected by acclamation, and also returned for South Bruce at g. e., 1872 (elected to sit for last-named seat), for which he was again returned at last g.e.; re-elected by acclamation on his appt. to office, 2 June, 1875. Sworn of the Privy Council, 7 Nov. 1873, and was a mem. of Mr. Mackenzie's Administration (without office and without salary) from that date until Feb., 1874, when he resigned. Declined the Chancellorship of Ont., Dec., 1869; and the Chief Justiceship of the Supreme Court of the Dominion, May, 1875. Apptd. Minister of Justice, 19 May, 1875. (*Salary*, \$7,000). Is *ex-officio* a Commissioner for the management of the Interior Economy of the House of Commons. Visited England on public business, 1876. The following statement of Mr. Blake's political views is summarized from his speeches as a private member: "An Independent Liberal, prepared to give a general support to the Government, so long as they fairly fulfil their pledges, and show themselves fairly adequate to their great task; believes that the basis of the franchise should be widened, and that efficiency instead of influence should be the passport to the public service; thinks political progress essential to political vitality, and advocates the fullest freedom of discussion on all topics affecting the public interests; supports the adoption of a system of proportional representation, whereby, among other improvements, the strength of the various opinions held by the people may be more nearly represented in Parliament; considers that, as the franchise is not merely a right, but a trust, the wilful neglect to vote should be followed by temporary disfranchisement; is op-