

the first Parliament opened with a political crisis, which had no connection whatever with the question of municipal institutions, although it had a most important bearing on the course taken in regard to that measure by the political parties. 6. Whatever may be the opinion formed as to the details of the municipal ordinance for Lower Canada, it must be acknowledged that it would have been difficult for the government which had procured its enactment to have introduced a more liberal system in Upper Canada than had been established in the sister Province. The municipal bill for Upper Canada was, therefore, substantially the same as the Lower Canada ordinance, and it soon became evident that a formidable opposition would be met with. In both Upper and Lower Canada there were many members who were strongly opposed to the introduction of municipal institutions, and yet these members did not belong to the same political party; indeed, there has been no period since 1841 when parties were so disorganized as during that first session. 7. The Conservative party, whose recognized leader was Sir Allan Macnab, was opposed altogether to the introduction of municipal institutions. The Lower Canadians had no desire to sanction a measure which had been forced on them by the Special Council, and the consequence of which would be the introduction of direct taxation, such as the Upper Canadians had long been subject to. The Upper Canadian Liberals, who followed the leadership of Mr. Baldwin, grounded their opposition on the provisions made in the bill for the appointment of municipal officers by the Executive. 8. The members of the government soon gave notice to the House, that if the bill were altered in any important particular it would be withdrawn, and this announcement led those