

representative of York flowed. Men understood that in him they had a thinker and a worker on whom they could depend in an emergency. He was a quick thinker on his feet, and when once his mind was made up on a particular subject, he could not be moved. This firmness of his position could not be traced to obstinacy. He felt, by the working in his head, a process of intuition, that he was right in his premises, and he acted accordingly, and in this connection, it may be added, he seldom went astray in his calculations. He was soon regarded as a safe man and a lucky leader. Sailors love to serve under a lucky captain, and, as we have seen, it did not take Mr. Blair long to convince his following, and some of the supporters of the Government in their general policy, that he was the man under whose banner they might serve without losing their self-respect. He had pulled his party together, and increased the numbers of the opposition from seven to seventeen during his first parliament, when the House was dissolved and an appeal was made to the country. The Government had every chance of winning. The sinews of war were in their hands. Blair had never conducted a campaign as the leader of a party in his life. In trying to get elected he had made a canvas which was practically confined to the wants and requirements of a single constituency, and that one of the river counties. The task which fell upon him, therefore, was a most difficult one. He had to manage for the whole province. He had to win back several seats. He had to retain the services of the ten men who had joined his standard, and get them re-elected. The contest was sharp. Blair was elected for York, and when the House met in March, 1883, he had the proud satisfaction of defeating the Government. Mr. Harrington, the Premier, and his Cabinet immediately resigned, and Lieutenant-Governor Robert Duncan Wilmot, once Speaker of the Senate of Canada, sent for Mr. Blair, and entrusted him with the duty of forming a Government. It did not take him long, for the task was completed in one day. Mr. Blair selected for himself the office of Attorney-General. His colleagues were: Hon. James Mitchell, Provincial Secretary; Hon. P. G. Ryan, Commissioner of Public Works; Hon. L. J. Tweedie, Surveyor-General; Hon. William Pugsley, Q.C., Solicitor-General; Hon. David McLennan, President of the Council, with Messrs. A. Harrison and C. H. Labillois, members of the Cabinet without portfolio. On submitting his name to