

ON PARLIAMENT HILL.

OTTAWA, March 23.—The name of Mr. H. B. Ames, the member for St. Antoine division of Montreal, has figured largely in reports of parliamentary doings this session, especially in connection with the affairs of the department of the interior, of which Mr. Ames is one of the chief critics for the Opposition. It is generally felt that Mr. Ames will never become a popular leader, because he lacks personal magnetism, but his work in Parliament has been of such a character that there he is looked upon as one of the big forces in Canadian politics of to-day.

Mr. Ames is in politics to-day from pure love of the work. Rich by inheritance, his life seemed more likely to centre around some of the fashionable clubs of Montreal than to enter into stormy politics. The smooth path, however, this reserved and energetic man discarded in order that he might be of service.

As a young man he inherited a fortune from his father, who was the head of the firm of Ames, Holden & Co., of Montreal. To these business interests close attention has been given, but politics has been supreme in the end.

Mr. Ames began with municipal politics. To be an alderman of the City of Montreal it was necessary to speak French, and his he did thoroughly by spending a considerable time in France. In 1898 he was elected to the council, and played a leading part in reforming the municipal government of that big proverbially mis-governed city. Three years in the council opened the way to a large field, and he turned to federal politics. To accomplish this, the most complete organization ever affected in Canada was perfected, and it may be said here that that organization in St. Antoine has never been allowed to fall off in any way.