

Reformer in the Cabinet from the banner Province, and this was looked upon as a breach of the compact entered into between the two parties at Confederation, and the commencement of a return to strict party lines. In Opposition were men whose ability and integrity could not be doubted, and they enjoyed a freedom to a certain extent from the quarrels and prejudices of the past. By skilfully watching the tide of popular opinion, and identifying themselves with it, they were rapidly gaining the confidence of the people. Sir Francis Hincks, returning from service under the Imperial Government, was taken into the Cabinet and made Finance Minister. He endeavored to stay the current of feeling that was rising against the Ministry by issuing a direct appeal to his old Reform friends for support. But it was all in vain. The party in power was assuming its real position. The Premier was no longer a leader of both sides, but was fast becoming the leader of the Conservative party. As the ground was slipping from under their feet, he and his colleagues were forced to resort to expedencies of the most doubtful character. No one who has studied the politics of those days, or who is at all acquainted with the management of such affairs as the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, will wonder for a moment at the growing distrust in the country in the men who manned the state ship. In Ontario the Ministry's