

and he and Mr. Annand were returned by over one thousand majority.

The issue in this election was responsible government. At this time the Executive Government was carried on by appointees of the Governor, and their tenure was in no sense dependent upon the confidence of the Assembly. The Upper House consisted of a body of officials including the Bishop, the Chief Justice and other dignitaries. They sat with closed doors and were amenable to no one. They exercised a veto upon all legislation, and by the aid of the Governor, managed affairs according to their will. The Executive Council was in no sense a Cabinet. It was a collection of officials, the Attorney-General, the Provincial Secretary, the Financial Secretary, the Solicitor-General and others. It had no common policy. Each member could have his own opinions upon all questions, and the tenure was simply the will of the Governor. Mr. Howe, at this election, laid down the principle of executive responsibility, the policy of having a ministry at all times in harmony with the people and enjoying the confidence of the people's representatives. A brief extract from one of his speeches on the hustings will illustrate his aim:—

“In England, one vote of the people's representatives turns out a ministry, and a new one comes in which is compelled to shape its policy by the views and wishes of the majority: here, we may record five hundred votes against our ministry, and yet they sit unmoved, reproducing themselves from their own friends and connections, and from a narrow party in the country, who, though opposed to the people, have a monopoly of influence and patronage. In England, the people can breathe the breath of life into their government whenever they please: in this country, the government is like an ancient Egyptian mummy, wrapped up in narrow and antique prejudices—dead and inanimate, but yet likely to last forever.

We are desirous of a change, not such as shall divide us from our brethren across the water, but which will ensure to us what they enjoy.”

Once in the legislature, Mr. Howe began at once a splendid struggle for responsible government. The House was largely Liberal, but the Executive was still Tory, and laughed at the idea that the opinions of the majority of the members of the Assembly had anything to do with their tenure. The leadership of the Liberals was naturally vested in some of those who had been active in the popular cause in former assemblies. But at an early day Mr. Howe took advanced ground. The House of Assembly which had preceded the one in which Mr. Howe first sat had disappointed public expectation, and pursued a sort of milk-and-water course in regard to the great questions which were agitating the public mind. Mr. Howe's advent was the signal for more vigorous action, and before the second session was over he was the recognized leader of the radical forces in the House; while in the country, owing to his brilliant assaults upon the stronghold of favoritism and privilege he quietly became a favorite idol. Still continuing his editorial work, and managing his newspaper, upon which his living depended, he yet found time to traverse the Province, address public meetings, make the acquaintance of hosts of people, and consolidate Liberal sentiment.

To conduct a crusade against officialdom, Mr. Howe had naturally to incur the enmity of all the dignitaries of the Province, from the Governor downwards. He had to accept the penalty of social ostracism, and banishment from the charming dinner-tables which constituted some of the chief joys of the few. But the grateful idolatry of the people was an ample recompense for this.

Responsible government is now such a long-established institution in Canada, and, indeed, in most parts of the