

Minister of the Interior, and Hon. George E. Foster, at that time Minister of Marine and Fisheries. His speech in the debate on the execution of Louis Riel had made him vastly popular throughout Ontario; and though, as a speaker, he is perhaps too self-contained and deliberate to thoroughly arouse such audiences as he addressed during the campaign, the interest and enthusiasm about him increased constantly during the tour.

The stump, however, will never be his proper pedestal. He has not the gifts of the popular orator, and is quite without that shrewd assurance of speech upon the stump which comes from long familiarity with the caucus and all the machinery of politics, public and secret. He does not seem to hold it the finest thing in the world that admiring multitudes should put cheers for comas to his sentences. What it is to address hostile multitudes, readier with groans than with cheers, he would have known, had he made another tour of Ontario after the session of Parliament of 1891, during which he made, in reply to D'Alton McCarthy, his memorable defence of the refusal of the Government to disallow the Jesuits' Estates Act of the Legislature of the province of Quebec. At the close of that speech, before the applause of the Ministerialists had ceased, Mr. Edward Blake crossed the floor of the chamber, and congratulated the Minister of Justice upon what has undoubtedly been his finest effort and his greatest success in Parliament. As an argument of sustained power, it surpassed the speech in the Riel debate, and carried the Government safely through another crisis.

At the last general elections, on March 5th, 1891, he was again returned to represent Antigonish in the House of Commons. The election campaign, which was destined to be the last of the many through which Sir John Macdonald led his forces to face the fortunes of political warfare at the polls, was contested stubbornly in all parts of the Dominion, and Sir John Thompson, who had come to be regarded among the strategy of the old Field Marshal's generals, bore a distinguished share of its hardships and labours.

The Minister of Justice owes his knighthood to the services which he rendered during the negotiation of the Chamberlain-Bayard Fishery Treaty, in 1887. He, in company with Sir Charles Tupper, went to Washington as the legal adviser of the British Plenipotentiaries, and prepared for them their briefs. The volumi-