

H. B. Ames, M.P.

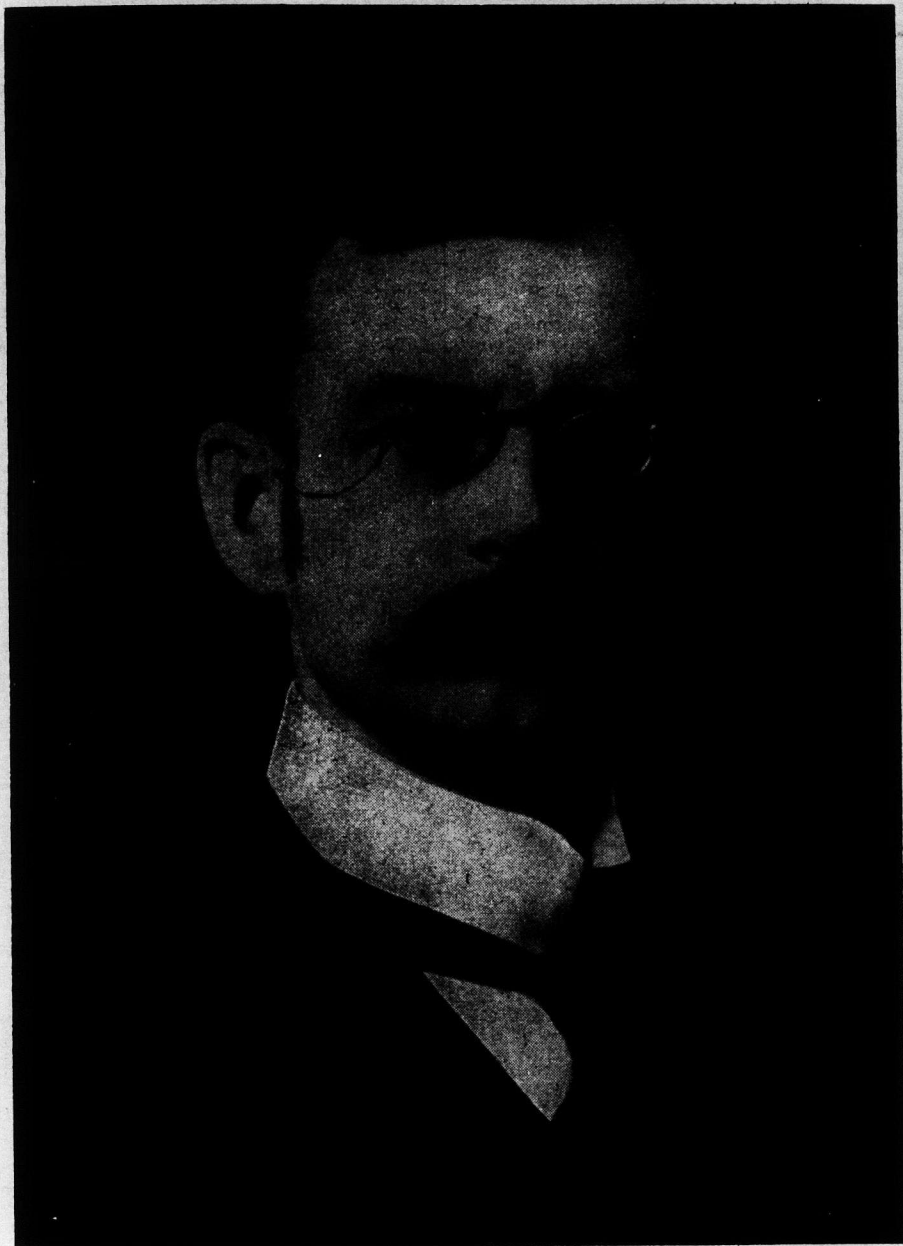
Mr. H. B. Ames, M.P. of Montreal, who has recently paid a visit to Western Canada is becoming more widely acquainted with western people and western conditions.

So far he has made some speeches in the West before large audiences and a short sketch of his career may be of interest to many of our readers who know Mr. Ames by name only.

Rich men, as a rule, do not deliberately and voluntarily come out from the easeful quiet of their clubs to enter the storm and stress of public life with the definite objective of becoming a recognized force either in municipal or national politics. The rich men who are in public life to-day have nearly all entered it reluctantly at the behest of party politics. Mr. Herbert B. Ames, M.P. for the St. Antoine division of Montreal, is a conspicuous exception to the rule. He has of his own free will forsaken the

serving three years in Council he turned his attention to Federal politics. The manner in which he organized his forces in the electoral riding which he now represents, the thorough canvass of voters and the elaborate detail with which every part of the campaign was worked out now serves as a model to political organizations. It was the campaign of a business man working on clean business principles, and it resulted in a conspicuous victory.

Coming to the Federal House in 1904, Mr. Ames has, as might be expected, been one of the most painstaking and diligent members among the ranks of the Opposition. He believes in hard work and a definite objective. His special objective so far has been to make himself Opposition critic of the Interior Department. The alleged scandals connected with western lands, etc., which have been



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ruby light of the quiet parlors of the rich for the glaring limelight of the politician. First, because he has the virtue of being ambitious, and, second, because he believes he can be of service to the public. As a young man he inherited an ample fortune from his father, who was the head of the Ames, Holden Company, of Montreal. His business interests have been all along sufficient to keep him decidedly busy. But he has for the last ten or eleven years given a major portion of his time and energy to public life.

He began with that most thankless of tasks, the reforming of municipal politics. In order to become an Alderman of Montreal he learned the French language thoroughly, going to France for that purpose. In 1898 he was elected to Council, and with Mayor Laporte conducted a vigorous campaign for the cleaning up of the Municipal government of Montreal. His work brought him many enemies, but it was undoubtedly effective. After

ventilated in the Commons during the past two sessions have emanated from Mr. Ames' microscopic scrutiny of every departmental action. In like manner he has undertaken lengthy journeys in Canada during the recent summers for the purpose of personally inspecting public works under construction. His present prominence in the Commons as the mover of the long-debated resolution calling on the Government to acknowledge the absolute right of any member of the House to personally examine any public records in the departmental files is the result of his unique activity in looking after the department of the Opposition's work to which he has been assigned.

Mr. Ames is still well under fifty, he is politically ambitious, persevering and energetic. He is by no means become a popular political leader. But he is unquestionably a force to be reckoned with in the public life of Canada.



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