

profession. He was admitted to the bar in 1865, and commenced to practice in Montreal.

Like many others, Mr. Taillon commenced to take an interest in politics at an early age. A very strong fighter, he soon rose from the ranks, and, in 1875, was selected to bear the conservative standard in the electoral division of Montreal East, the most populous constituency and the most important in the Province of Quebec. Mr. Taillon did not deceive the expectations formed of him. He was elected by a large majority. On subsequent occasions, he asked of the electors of this powerful division the renewal of their confidence, and each time his name was returned at the head of the list. In 1882, when the Legislative Assembly met after the almost phenomenal victory of the Conservative party at the General Elections of December 2nd, 1881, Mr. Chapleau, then prime minister, proposed the election of Mr. Taillon as speaker of the Legislative Assembly. This proposition was carried with enthusiasm, and Mr. Taillon mounted the presidential chair, amid the acclamations of the whole Chamber. He occupied this distinguished position for two years, during which period he displayed his urbanity, his impartiality, and his familiarity with the rules of parliamentary procedure. During this same period, Mr. Chapleau had retired from provincial politics, and resigned together his portfolio as head of the Cabinet, and his seat in the Provincial Legislature, of which he had been a member since Confederation, to accept the post of Secretary of State in the Federal Cabinet. The late Judge Mousseau had taken his place as Premier of the Province of Quebec. The Mousseau ministry lasted a year and a half, and was replaced by one headed by Doctor Ross, in which Mr. Taillon received, on January 23rd, 1884, the portfolio of Attorney-General. On this occasion Mr. Taillon was elected by acclamation in Montreal East.

The Ross-Taillon ministry lasted two years. With a large majority in the Legislative Assembly, a majority secured at the polls on December 2nd, 1881, it seemed to be justified in claiming a long lease of life. But serious events had happened in the North-West. Louis Riel, returned a short time previously from the United States, had raised the standard of rebellion throughout the territories. Before the country could realize, even, what was going on in