

executive council is dated on December 11th, 1879. By his request, he is only on one committee, that of private and local bills. His politics are Liberal Conservative. He is an efficient, energetic business man, and useful in any position in which he may be placed. He is a director of the Halifax and Dartmouth steam ferry company.

Mr. Stairs is a member of St. James' Presbyterian church, Dartmouth, and a man of excellent standing in all the relations of life.

He was married on the 27th of April, 1870, to Charlotte J., daughter of James Fogo, Esq., of Pictou, judge of probate for that county, and they have three children.

WILLIAM M. BLAIR, M.P.P.,

ONSLow, N.S.

THE subject of this brief biographical notice, Member of the Legislative Assembly for the County of Colchester, and one of the most public-spirited farmers in his district, was born at Onslow, in that county, on the 25th of May, 1836. His father, Simeon Howard Blair, was born in the same town, and his grandfather, John Blair, was from New England, coming to Nova Scotia when three years of age. The family was originally from Blair Athol, Scotland; went thence to the North of Ireland, from that country emigrated to Massachusetts, from which Colony, now State, the great-grandfather of our subject, William Blair, came to Nova Scotia.

The mother of William was Janette G. McCurdy, who was born in Onslow, where the family settled towards the close of the last century. He received very little school discipline, being largely self-instructed, and has always been a farmer, owning about one hundred acres of the land originally possessed by the Blair family, and cleared by his great-grandfather and grandfather. He has reclaimed it, enriched it, and made it one of the best farms of the smaller class in that town or in the county. Mr. Blair is one of the most enterprising, hard-working men in Onslow, and has been President of the Agricultural Society of that town for eight or nine years. He is also Master of the Provincial Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, which was organized in September, 1880, and Master of Dominion Grange for 1881, and for years has been one of the foremost men in the local Grange. He has a good stock of cattle, which he is gradually improving, intending to run them into thoroughbred Durhams.

On his farm is a cheese factory, owned by a joint stock company, which is making about from sixteen to twenty-five tons of cheese annually.

At twenty years of age our subject joined the militia of the Province, and gradually worked his way up until he became Lieutenant-Colonel of the 78th Nova Scotia Highlanders, with head-quarters at Truro—the only regiment of Highlanders in the Province.

Colonel Blair was elected to Parliament at the general election held in September, 1878, and is serving his first term in a legislative body. His politics are Liberal-Conservative, the principles of which party he regards as for the best interest of the Province and Dominion.

The Colonel has some funds invested in a dry-goods store at Truro, he being of the firm of Blair and Cutten, the business being managed by his partner, a prudent and careful trader, and owns one-third of the Union Woollen Mills, at Truro.

He is a Free Mason of the 4th degree, and was for some years Master of the Truro Lodge;