

GENERAL.

HON. CHAS. DRURY.



BEEKEEPERS have reason to feel proud of the gentleman whom we purpose introducing to them at this time. The above is a very fair portrait of the Honorable Charles Drury, Minister of Agriculture. His father emigrated from England in the year 1819, and settled in the township of Oro about the year 1820 upon the homestead farm which Mr. Drury now owns. The subject of our sketch was born on the 4th September, 1844, at what is now called Crown Hill, in the township of Oro, and was educated at the Public and High Schools, Barrie, under the late Mr. Checkley. On leaving school in 1866 he settled down to farming in the township of Oro, and was engaged in that occupation continuously until the time of his connection with the Government. He has filled almost every position from a school trustee to a member of the Government. Was first elected member of the township council of Oro in 1875, and in 1876 contested the reeveship of the township against Mr. John C. Steele, but was defeated. Was again a candidate for the office in the year following, and was elected. For several years after Mr. Steele and he had very warm contests for the reeveship, but Mr. Drury was always successful in the election, and in the last eight or nine years was re-elected year after year by acclamation.

At the general elections for the Dominion in 1882 he was chosen to oppose Mr. Dalton McCarthy, in North Simcoe, but was defeated. In October of the same year he was elected as the representative from East Simcoe in the Local House, defeating Dr. Slaven by a majority of 221 votes. On the dissolution of the House, and the general elections following, he was opposed

by Mr. H. H. Thompson, and was elected by a majority of 23. Then followed an election protest which dragged its slow course through nearly two years, and finally resulted in his being unseated. In the election which followed he was again opposed by Mr. Thompson, but was elected by 117 majority.

In the general election of 1886 he was opposed by Mr. J. B. Clarke, of Toronto, but defeated him by 217 votes.

On the 1st May, 1886, Mr. Drury was appointed Minister of Agriculture and Registrar-General for the Province of Ontario, and on appearing for re-election was returned without opposition. We may mention that in addition to the Agricultural Department proper there are attached to his Department the following sub-departments:—The Bureau of Industries, the Department of Immigration, the Department of Vital Statistics, the Provincial Board of Health, and Factory Inspection.

In 1878 Mr. Drury was elected member of the Council of the Agriculture and Arts Association to represent the Algoma, Parry Sound and Muskoka Districts, and the county of Simcoe, and has been re-elected from time to time since then till now. For four years he was also director of the Provincial Fruit Growers' Association, as well as taking an active part in agricultural matters generally.

As all are aware, he has been all his life actively identified with the temperance cause, having been a total abstainer from boyhood, and during most of his life either a member of the Sons of Temperance or of the Independent Order of Good Templars. He has also been an active Sunday School worker, and a member of the Methodist Church from boyhood.

Politically Mr. Drury has been a hard worker, is an able and effective speaker, and the department of which he is the head, is one which is doing a vast and good work in the interest of the farming community, and a most gratifying feature in his administration of this department, is the fact that the opposition in place of finding fault, complimented him on the course he had pursued.

When the committee appointed by the members of the Ontario Beekeeper's Association, for the purpose of asking for legislation for the suppression of Foul Brood, applied to Mr. Drury for assistance, he at once grasped the situation, and promised to do what he could, realizing as he did the large proportions to which beekeeping had attained as an industry of the Province. He made the Bill a Government measure, and that bill is now an Act, which