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HON. DAVID MILLS, Q.C.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

Hon. David Mills, Q.C., LL.B., Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Dominion, is one of the best known of our Canadian public men. For almost a third of a century he has taken an active interest in the public affairs of this country, and to-day there is no man in Canadian public life whose opinions on a wide range of questions—legal as well as political and social—are more favourably received than are those of this statesman. A man of strong character, of positive individuality, of kindly disposition yet firm temperament, association with him at once leads to the conclusion that he is fitted by nature and by culture to take a high place in any country, and especially so in this young and growing section of the British Empire. With Puritan and United Empire Loyalists ancestors, he has exemplified in his own career many of the characteristics of the stock from which he sprung.

Mr. Mills is a native of Orford township, in county of Kent, Ontario. Here his father was a successful farmer, and in this section the subject of this sketch still, despite his multitudinous public duties, interests himself in the cultivation of the soil. Born in 1831 and educated at the public and district schools, he taught school for some time, and was subsequently appointed Superintendent of Education, which office he held until he entered public life. Meanwhile, he had attended the University of Michigan, the better to prepare himself for the high position he was destined to occupy. At an early age he won distinction in the national arena. He entered public life 33 years ago, being selected by his friends and neighbours in the electoral county of Bothwell as their representative in the first Parliament of confederated Canada. For thirty years uninterruptedly he represented the constituency, despite the fact that its boundaries were altered so as to take away the petty majority that was polled for him in the earlier contests. After the election of 1896, when he was defeated by a few votes, Mr. Mills was called to the Senate, and a year later, on