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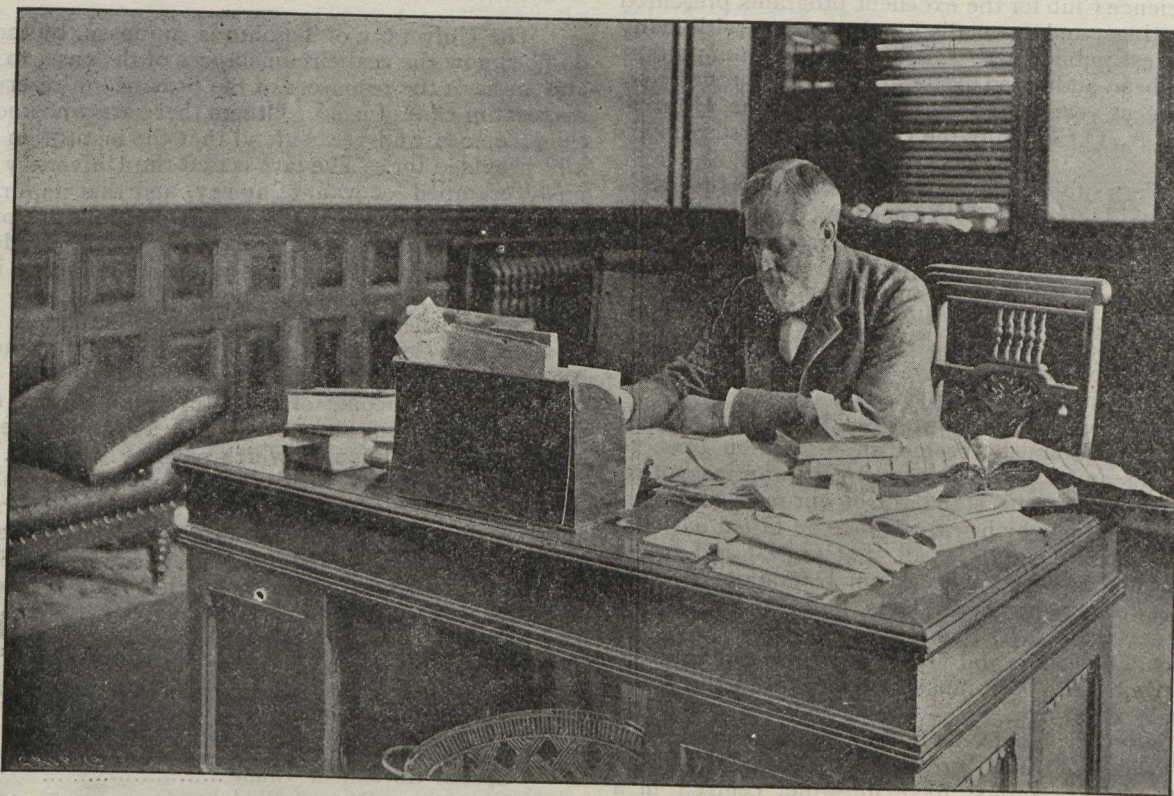
CHANCELLOR MEREDITH.

BY PRESIDENT LOUDON.

The new Chancellor of the University, like his predecessor, the Hon. Edward Blake, is a Canadian by birth, of Irish descent. Curiously enough, like Mr. Blake also, he was born in the vicinity of London, where he received his early education and legal training, the latter being supplemented by his course of study in the University of Toronto. For many years Mr. Meredith was a resident of London, where he was engaged in the practice of law,

authority, a fact which received practical recognition by his appointment as chief legal adviser to the city of London, and subsequently to the city of Toronto.

In the eyes of the public, however, it is Mr. Meredith's political career which balks most largely, and which has won for him a measure of admiration for his talents and respect for his integrity accorded to but few men in political life. For sixteen years, as leader of the Opposition, he joined issue with the strongly entrenched Government of Sir Oliver Mowat. In his capacity as parliamentary critic he was unsurpassed. The minutest details



HON. SIR WILLIAM R. MEREDITH, H. C. J., G. C. M. G.

until his removal to Toronto in 1888. In 1872 he was elected to represent the city of London in the Provincial Legislature, which he continued to do without interruption until his elevation to the Bench in 1894.

It is very rare that an active politician succeeds in achieving distinction both in his professional and political career, but, during the twenty-two years from 1872 to 1894, Mr. Meredith not only worked his way up to a leading position at the bar, but at the same time played a very prominent part in the political life of the country. In the sphere of law he won distinction both in civil and criminal cases. In municipal law, especially, he became an

of public business were familiar to him, whilst his eminent legal ability was brought to bear most effectively in the criticism of legislative measures brought before the House. It is in view of his services in this last-mentioned capacity that his retirement from politics is especially regretted, since, in a legislature composed largely of members destitute of legal training, the presence of a great legal mind is invaluable as a safeguard against measures which, however well intentioned, are liable without such guidance to result in legal confusion and public loss. In 1894 Mr. Meredith accepted the Chief Justiceship of the Court of Common Pleas, thus closing his long and truly courageous political career.