

*MR. JUSTICE ARMOUR.*

On the 11th instant at the residence of his son, Dr. Donald Armour, in London, England, there died one of the most striking personalities that the legal profession in Canada has produced.

Born May 4th, 1830, the son of an Anglican Clergyman in the Township of Otonabee, John Douglas Armour was head boy at Upper Canada College, Gold Medalist in Classics of Toronto University and a very successful and widely-known Counsel, although practising in a country town.

For more than a quarter of a century he was upon the Bench, being successively a puisne Judge and Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, Chief Justice of Ontario and a Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. At the time of his death he was one of the Canadian representatives upon the international tribunal to enquire into the Alaska Boundary.

During all this time his reputation as a jurist had steadily grown, and in recent years he was looked upon as the most eminent member of the Bench in Canada, and the feeling of the loss sustained by his country both in its highest court and in connection with the Alaska Boundary dispute will be universal.

A man of great natural ability, with a commanding presence, his profound knowledge of the principles of law, coupled with an astonishing memory for cases, and that insight into human nature and appreciation of the fitness of things called common sense, made him a great judge. He had also the gift of expressing himself in the clearest manner and in forceful language.

Rugged in mind and temperament and not over polite or particularly careful of the susceptibilities of either counsel, suitors or witnesses, and not over tolerant of other people's opinions, he sometimes gave offence; but lawyers who practised before him always knew that he was quite content that they should fight as strongly as he did; and, whatever view of a case he took, they always had the satisfaction of knowing that he understood the points that were being urged, even if he did not agree with them, or tried to cut short prolix counsel.

A hater of cant and shams and absolutely devoid of any *ex cathedra* airs, with a strong desire to get at the marrow of a case and a thorough contempt for legal technicalities, he nevertheless possessed certain prejudices which in the opinion of some