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THE RAILWAY BOARD AND ITS LATE CHAIRMAN.

Hon. James P. Mabee, Chairman of the Board of Railway Commissioners died on the 6th inst. from heart failure, the result of an operation for appendicitis.

It will be remembered that under the Railway Act of 1903 there was constituted a Board of three commissioners to be known as the "Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada." In 1908, the Board was reconstructed by increasing the number of these members to six, and in September of that year these were appointed, Mr. Mabee being named as the Chief Commissioner.

The Board has been fortunate in having had as its head from time to time men of great ability and force of character, who have done excellent work for the country, and built up the reputation of this most useful court. Whilst this has happily been so, it has been unfortunate that none of those who have presided over its deliberations have been permitted to hold their positions for any lengthened period. Mr. Blair, Mr. Killam, and now Mr. Mabee, have all passed away within the comparatively short life of the commission. It is sincerely to be hoped that the man to be chosen to fill the vacant place, whoever he may be, will follow in the footsteps of that splendid administrator who died just nine days ago.

Mr. Mabee, who was of U. E. Loyalist stock, was born at Port Rowen, Ontario, November 5th, 1858. In 1882, he was called to the Bar, and given silk in 1889. He practised first in Listowel, afterwards in Stratford, and later on in Toronto. In November, 1905, he was called to the Ontario High Court Bench. He remained there less than three years, for on March 28th, 1908, on the death of Hon. Mr. Killam, then at the head of the