

Obituary

E. F. B. JOHNSTON, K.C.

It is with deep regret and with a sense of great personal sorrow that we record the death of the late Ebenezer Forsyth Blackie Johnston, K.C., who passed away at his residence on Bernard Avenue, Toronto, on January 29th, in his sixty-ninth year.

On a previous occasion we spoke at some length of the early life and career of this eminent member of the Bar and worthy citizen (*ante* vol. 31, p. 321), and to that article we would refer our readers.

Mr. Johnston was born in Scotland December 20th, 1850, coming to this country whilst still young. Like some others who have achieved distinction at the Bar, he began by teaching school in one of the public schools in the county of Wellington. He subsequently chose the law as his life's work, and began practice in the town of Guelph.

Called to the Bar in 1880, he was created a Queen's Counsel ten years later. Practising in Guelph for three years, he then came to Toronto, where, for four years, he was Deputy Attorney-General and Clerk of the Executive Council, and later was Inspector of Registry Offices for Ontario. Mr. Johnston has been the Honorary President of the Ontario Bar Association, and was a Benchler of the Law Society.

His sound knowledge of business methods and his astuteness in commercial affairs, naturally resulted in his being placed on the boards of various banks and companies, but it is with the commanding position he occupied in the legal fraternity that we are more intimately concerned. Whether for the Crown or the defence he was equally painstaking and thorough, both in the preparation of his cases and in his argument, and the remarkable success which followed him was due, undoubtedly, in a large measure to these characteristics. During a great part of his legal career he was looked on as one of our best criminal lawyers. To his telling manner of placing a case before a jury, and his skilful methods of cross-examination were largely due his success in the well-known cases—in which he acted for the defence—of Clara Ford, Hyams, Sifton, Sternaman and Hammond; whilst he was equally well known in those—in which he took the Crown's case—of the Welland dynamiters, *Queen v. Harvey*, *Queen v. Day*, and *Queen v. Brennan*. There will also be remembered his counsel work in the libel action of Sir Geo. Foster against Dr. J. A. Mac-