

most conspicuous figure at the Bar, and on the rostrum in Western Ontario. It was an era of prosperity, of rapid growth in reputation and population.

The young colony was entering upon its great career of cementing its provinces from ocean to ocean, and trying to realize its manifest destiny. All through this period sounded the axe of the pioneers, clearing their farms, and overcoming the hardships they were surrounded by, imbued with the spirit of hopefulness and lightheartedness.

There was a restless energy, a sanguine anticipation, which characterized Canadian thought at that time. It was not a literary age, but it was an age of large ideas and expanding prospects. The new consciousness of empire uttered itself hastily and crudely, but this noisy exultation was exhilarating, because it was not narrow,—it was not provincial. The night-mare of provincial rights had no place in their dreams, at that time.

The masculine force of Mr. Wood's personality soon impressed itself on all those he came in contact with. His look and manner were characteristic, his form was massive, his skull was large, and his jaw was solid, the underlip projecting, and the mouth firmly and grimly shut, and his dark, deep-set eyes, under shaggy brows, gleamed with smouldering fire.

During his first year of practice, he formed a partnership with the late Mr. Peter Long, under the name and style of Wood and Long. The firm soon found themselves in possession of a large and flourishing practice.

The Counsel business was chiefly committed to the senior partner, who soon came to be recognized as a successful jury lawyer.

When the project was mooted of constructing a line of railway through Brantford, connecting Buffalo with Goderich, Mr. Wood took a conspicuous part in its promotion, and was appointed solicitor to the company. This position, which was, in itself, the source of a large and profitable business, was retained by Mr. Wood until the amalgamation of the line with the Grand-Trunk Railway, in 1865, in fact, he still continued to act for this division, until 1870.

It is said that during the construction of this railway, Mr. Wood walked every foot of the way from Fort Erie to Goderich, settling claims with the farmers as to compensation for their lands, etc.; his tireless energy knew no fatigue. Within five years from the time he was called to the Bar, he was engaged on one side or the other in nearly every important case in the local courts. Among the best known of these were the *Queen vs. High Flyer*, *Whitehead vs. the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway Company*, and *Widde vs. The Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway Company*. In the first of these he defended the Indian, High Flyer, for manslaughter, and when he came to address the jury, he gave his personality the widest scope. He first dilated upon man's inhumanity to man, and especially the inhumanity of white men to the red men, and as he warmed up to this, he really felt the wrongs himself, and his indignation knew no bounds, and his deep, sombre, full-toned voice pealed