

The Canadian Courier

A National Weekly

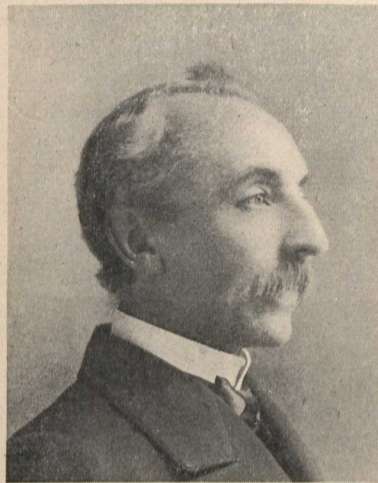
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IN THE PUBLIC VIEW



Sir Louis Jette.

STRIKING it is to note how many graduates of L'Assomption College have become prominent in the public life of the Dominion. Two of the most noted of these are Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Louis Jette. The latter was born at L'Assomption in the first month of the year 1836, but was not called to the bar until 1862. Sir Wilfrid is five years younger, but was called to the bar only two years later than Sir Louis. Sir Wilfrid studied law in the office of the late Hon. R. Laflamme, once Minister of Justice for the Dominion, while Sir Louis married the honourable gentleman's niece. Both of these young men turned their attention to literature and journalism.

Sir Louis edited "L'Ordre," while Sir Wilfrid edited "Le Deffricheur." In 1872, Sir Louis entered Parliament by defeating Sir George E. Cartier in Montreal East. The year before, Sir Wilfrid had entered the Quebec Assembly and did not go to Ottawa until 1874.

In 1878, Sir Louis abandoned the bar for the bench and also became professor of civil law in Laval. Later he was Dean of the Faculty until appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, an office which he has now held for more than two terms. He has served on several commissions, but his best known public service was in connection with the Alaskan Boundary Commission which created such a stir in the realm of international politics.

Just now the people of Quebec are wondering how long Sir Louis will be allowed to remain at Spencerwood. His long term is unusual, but so have been his public services. He seems to have no enemies and will probably continue in his present office so long as he cares to occupy it.

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THE death of the Hon. Albert Clements Killam, chairman of the Dominion Railway Commission, is a distinct loss to Canada.

There was no member of the administrative service who stood higher in the public estimation. He was patient, forbearing, sympathetic and judicial. The railway officials found him courteous and fair-minded; the public found his ear always open to their complaints. To win the esteem and respect of all classes was a wonderful achievement. He was chairman of the Commission by virtue of appointment and still more by virtue of his ability. Although he had held the office only three years, he had made himself absolutely master of the situation and had worked out a system of administration which was bringing magnificent results and much public satisfaction.

Judge Killam was a Blue-nose, or at least a Nova Scotian. He was born at Yarmouth in 1849, and was still in the prime of life, as life is considered in this country where men are comparatively young at sixty. He was a graduate of the University of Toronto, being Prince of Wales prize-man in 1872. He was called to the bar in 1877 and practised for a time at Windsor, Ontario. In 1879 he removed to Manitoba and soon entered political life. In 1885, he ascended the bench. There his promotion was rapid until he was chosen for the important post which he held during the last three years of his life.

Judge Killam's end was unexpected. He was a tremendous worker and seemed possessed of inexhaustible energy. Perhaps he over-worked himself. In any case, a slight cold developed into pneumonia and the end came suddenly.

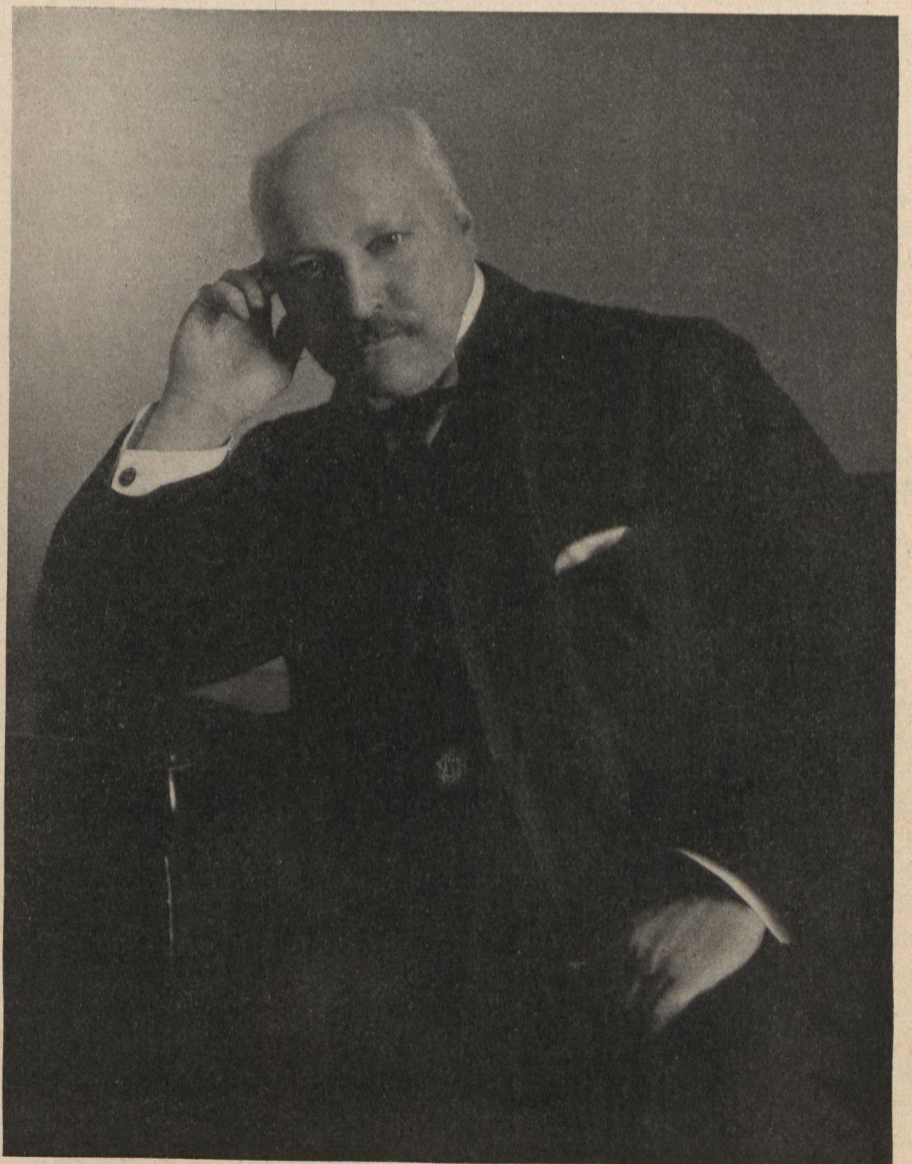
His death will disorganise the Railway Commission and it will be difficult to fill his place. It is especially unfortunate that his great services should be lost just at a time when the scope and personnel of the Commission was being enlarged. It is possible that much of

the work which has been done in connection with the Bell Telephone Company will have to be gone over again. This great piece of work was almost completed and all that remained undone practically was the writing of the judgment. Among the names mentioned for places on the Commission are those of Mr. William Whyte, of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Professor Shortt of Queen's and the Hon. H. R. Emmerson.

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HON. J. P. WHITNEY, Premier of Ontario, was the guest of honour at the Borden Club banquet held in the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, last Monday night. As might be expected in a city of Toronto's traditions, the attendance at this political festivity honouring a Conservative leader was large and enthusiastic. Mr. R. L. Borden was also present and Controller Hocken presided; thus, municipal, provincial and federal interests were fairly represented. Mr. Whitney's speech covered the record of the Ontario Government since January, 1905, from the closing of pool-rooms to the Redistribution Bill. The matter of cheap power was also dwelt upon with characteristic frankness, the speaker declaring that the Government has fulfilled its promise and is now waiting for the municipalities to do their part. Mr. Whitney referred to the question of forestry protection and development and also to the proposed prison reform, concluding his remarks by kindly tribute to his hard-working and united Cabinet. The speech, while containing nothing sensational, was such as to afford suggestive material for those interested in Ontario's present needs and demands.

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The late Hon. A. C. Killam, Chairman of the Dominion Railway Commission.