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THE RAILWAY COMMISSION.

In its short existence of eight years the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada has had four chief commissioners. The first of these—Hon. A. G. Blair—resigned voluntarily after a few months' tenure of office, during which he organized the Board, and did excellent work almost single handed. The next chief came from the Bench of the Supreme Court of Canada—Hon. A. C. Killam—whose mature judgment and careful consideration of all matters which came before him created great confidence in, and gave great strength and importance to, this railway court, and his decisions have never been reversed. Mr. Killam's untimely death, after three years' service, seemed at the time to be irreparable.

To fill his place a judge was again taken from the Bench, this time from the High Court of Ontario. The Hon. J. P. Mabee proved a fitting successor to the strong men who had preceded him. His legal attainments, judicial training, and strong common-sense bent of mind made his personality strongly felt, and his decisions were usually satisfactory to the parties concerned. He seemed scarcely to be in the saddle before death removed him, and again the chairmanship was vacant.

During the interval which subvened before a new appointment was made, the duties devolved upon the Assistant Chief Commissioner—Mr. D'Arcy Scott. It seems appropriate here to say that both as assistant chief, and as acting chief, Mr. Scott has an enviable record for capacity and ability in the conduct and disposal of matters before the Board. The Government, however, deemed it desirable to make an appointment from the outside, and the choice fell on a prominent member of the Ontario Bar, Mr. Harry Lumley Drayton, K.C., of Toronto, and it can truly be said that the office sought the man, and that (like the chairman of the Transcontinental Railway Commission) pecuniary considerations had no weight in determining his acceptance.