

often willing to pay twenty-five per cent., but the firm never accepted a higher rate of interest than ten per cent., which was then regarded a low rate for money, regarding usurious charges as a dishonorable business method and maintaining strictly a principle, which brought them financial success and secured for them the honor and respect of their fellowmen and won them a position in public regard which was most commendable and desirable. By their connection with wealthy men in England and Scotland this firm secured all the money they required and as financial agents did a profitable business for British capitalists and for themselves.

For over thirty years Mr. Blaikie has retired from active business pursuits, but is serving as either president or director of several companies and corporations. For thirty-eight years he has been president of the Canada Landed & National Investment Company, being a record probably unequalled by any other man connected with any financial institution as president in the Dominion. The company has become one of the most prosperous institutions of its kind in the city. In fact there has not been one esoteric phase in the entire business career of Mr. Blaikie, who by the consensus of public opinion is accounted one of the most honorable and honored residents of Toronto. His recognized ability, enterprise and sound business judgment have led him to be sought for official service in connection with other corporate interests, and at the present writing he is president of the North American Life Insurance Company, president of the Consumers' Gas Company and a director of the Toronto General Trusts Company.

In 1861 Mr. Blaikie was married to Miss Annie Todd, of St. Andrew's, Scotland, and five of their seven children are yet living, namely: Jean, the widow of the late W. C. B. Rathbun; Frank, a resident of St. Catharines; Mary, wife of the Rev. Dr. W. G. Wallace, M.A., D.D.; George W., of the firm of Fergusson & Blaikie, stock brokers of Toronto; and Miss Florence.

Mr. Blaikie is one of the three members living who were of the original Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association in London, England, founded by Sir George Williams in 1844. He is also one of the very few men living who witnessed the funeral of Sir Walter Scott, in 1832, the event making a lasting impression on his mind and the recollection still remaining clear to him notwithstanding that seventy-five years have since