

MR. J. HERBERT MASON.

It is not usual in the columns of this journal to record the demise of persons unconnected with the legal profession, but an exception, we think, may well be made in the case of the gentleman whose name heads this paragraph.

Mr. Mason, though not a member of the profession, had for most of his life much to do with lawyers, and it was owing to this fact that he was induced to become an energetic advocate of an important reform in the laws relating to land transfer. This claim to remembrance in our columns rests on the fact that he was one of those who took a practical interest in the introduction into Canada of what is called the "Torrens' system of land transfer." It was largely due to the influential support which he was able to give the movement, both as a speaker, and a writer, that it succeeded in securing the necessary public attention to warrant its parliamentary adoption in the great north-western provinces of the Dominion.

Mr. Mason had an eminently practical turn of mind, and having thoroughly satisfied himself of the feasibility of the scheme he gave to its furtherance a most energetic support, and liberally contributed to the expenses which its advocacy involved. As one of the original organizers and President of the Canada Land Law Amendment Association, he devoted himself with his usual energy and perseverance to promoting the object of the Association, and had the satisfaction of seeing the system he advocated widely adopted.

Mr. Mason was a native of Devonshire. He came to Canada in 1842, and in 1855 organized the Canada Permanent Loan and Savings Society, of which, until he closed his business career, he was the chief executive officer. Untiring energy and tenacity of purpose characterized all Mr. Mason's labours, with the result that success usually crowned his efforts. He died at Toronto on the 9th December last, having attained the great age of eighty-four years and having during his long life earned and retained the sincere respect and esteem of all who knew him.