

Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XLIV.

APRIL 1.

NO 7.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS.

Hon. James Pitt Mabee, one of the justices of the Supreme Court of Judicature for the Province of Ontario, has been appointed to succeed the late Hon. A. C. Killam as Chairman of the Board of Railway Commissioners. The appointment is commended in all quarters as an excellent one.

The new Chief Commissioner was appointed to the High Court Bench of Ontario less than three years ago, and during that period his rulings have been marked with strong common sense and a sound appreciation of the principles of law applicable to the business affairs of this country. Being free from all prejudices or fads he may safely be relied upon in his new sphere to do what is right in the interest of the country, without unjustly imposing too onerous burdens on the public service corporations which are under the control of the Board.

A not unimportant matter is the fact that Mr. Mabee, since his promotion to the Bench, has evinced the desirable judicial qualities of industry, patience and courtesy. He was a judge who listened, without talking, and then quietly and definitely made up his mind. It may be that he has not all the gifts which made his predecessor, Mr. Killam, so distinguished as a pure lawyer; but his many other qualifications will, we venture to think, be found eminently in keeping with the functions of the important and responsible tribunal over which he has been called upon to preside. Its duties, moreover, will fit in with his personal inclinations as to work, so that he will at once find himself at home in the business atmosphere that will surround him.

The Government is to be congratulated upon its selection. Mr. Mabee is in the prime of life and has contracted the invaluable habit of deciding matters promptly. He has happily a strong constitution and possesses in this respect as well as in others the characteristics which the position demands.