

His judicial career therefore began almost simultaneously with the changes in the organization of the Courts, and in the procedure called for by the Ontario Judicature Act of 1881, and it is due to his able and sympathetic administration of the new system then inaugurated, that it soon approved itself to the profession.

Sir John was of a singularly calm and equitable disposition and of an eminently judicial frame of mind, apt to see all sides of a case and without any prepossessions for or against any litigant who came before him. As a lawyer, few of his contemporaries could reasonably claim to be his equal either in the grasp of legal principles, or the wide and varied stores of knowledge which he possessed and was ever adding to. His official duties were discharged with firmness, but with unfailing courtesy to and consideration for the Bar, the members of which always regarded him with profound admiration and respect, and by whom his death will be sincerely regretted. And here we desire to pay our tribute of gratitude for his many contributions to the editorial column of this journal: articles of great value to practitioners and counsel and on a variety of subjects.

Sir John was perhaps ill advised when in 1903 he undertook the office of a Commissioner to inquire into the Gamey charges, for it was the only occasion during his long career that he was exposed to adverse criticism, a result almost inevitable when party politics are concerned. This incident was another illustration of the evil of appointing Judges on commissions and taking them away from their proper sphere of labour, especially in cases (as we have seen lately in Manitoba), where political animosities can creep in.

In 1900 he was offered and declined the Chancellorship of Toronto University, of which he was a most distinguished alumnus. In 1901 his late Majesty was graciously pleased to confer on him the honour of Knighthood, in connection with the Order of St. Michael and St. George; this distinguished record of Royal favour was unanimously approved by the profession.

He had thus for twenty years past filled one of the highest judicial offices in the Province with distinction and universal