

Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XXXV.

MAY 1, 1899.

NO. 9.

MR. B. B. OSLER, Q.C.

Mr. Britton Bath Osler, Q.C., whose portrait appears in this issue, was born in the county of Simcoe in the province of Ontario, on June 19, 1839, being the second son of the late Rev. F. L. Osler, of the Church of England, whose other sons are also distinguished in various ways; the eldest, an eminent member of the Ontario Judiciary, being one of the judges of the Court of Appeal; another, Mr. E. B. Osler, M.P., is a well-known financier; and the youngest, William, is one of the best known physicians on this continent, and head of the medical staff at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

The subject of this sketch took his degree of LL.B. at Toronto University in 1862, and became a student of the late Wm. Notman, Q.C., Dundas, afterwards being in the office of the Hon. James Patton, Q.C. He was called to the Bar in 1862, at first practising in Dundas and subsequently in Hamilton. He was appointed County Crown Attorney for Wentworth in May, 1879, holding that office until he removed to Toronto in 1882, where he joined the late D'Alton McCarthy, Q.C., and John Hoskin, Q.C., in forming the firm of McCarthy, Osler, Hoskin & Creelman. He was a Q.C. by appointment both by the Dominion and the Ontario Governments, and was elected a Bencher in 1885, and does most valuable work for the profession in that capacity.

His great reputation as a criminal lawyer caused his appointment to assist Mr. Christopher Robinson, Q.C., who had charge of the prosecution of Riel in connection with the North-West Rebellion. In 1890 he acted for the Crown in the celebrated Birchall murder case, and again in the lengthy and important proceedings against McGreevy and Connolly. These are only a few of the many important criminal cases in which Mr. Osler has been engaged. It would take too long to tell of even a tithe of the cases, both civil and criminal, which have brought distinction to him and benefit to his many clients. Though Mr. Osler has not taken much active part in politics, he is not unknown in the ranks