

In 1887 he was appointed by Sir Oliver Mowat a commissioner to inquire into the working of municipal institutions. His political service has largely been in the line of professional duty.

He has won distinction as a leading jury lawyer in both civil and criminal cases, being strong in argument, logical in his deductions, forceful in his presentation of a cause. He is looked upon as one of the strongest cross-examiners at the Bar. He was appointed Queen's Counsel by the Ontario government in 1890.

In his younger days Mr. Johnston was for some years a constant contributor to the *Guelph Mercury*. He also served as president of the Guelph Caledonian Society and as president of the South Wellington Reform Association. He is a strong political speaker. His close and discriminating study of the political situation and the possibilities for reform and improvement found elucidation in his addresses as a young man to the public, and his reasons were presented so clearly and cogently as always to make a strong impress on his audience. Of late years, the demands of his profession have prevented him from taking an active part in politics. He was offered the position of Attorney-General by the late Ross government, but for business reasons was forced to decline it.

In January, 1886, Mr. Johnston was married to Miss Sara, daughter of W. C. Schreiber, formerly of Barrie. Their residence is at No. 14 Spadina road, Toronto. Mr. Johnston is a Presbyterian.

JOHN W. COWAN.

In the history of commercial enterprise and progress in Toronto in recent years John W. Cowan deserves mention, for the extensive manufacturing and mercantile interests of the Cowan Cocoa & Chocolate Company, Limited, found inception in the energy and business enterprise of him whose name initiates this review.

Born in Tipperary, Ireland, in 1842, he is a son of the late Edmond Cowan, who was born in Ireland and came to Canada in 1852, his death, however, occurring soon afterward. The son was educated in Ireland and in the public schools of Princeton, Ontario, supplemented by study in the