

LAWRENCE JONES.

AN APPRECIATION.

To many members of the legal profession in Canada the announcement of the sudden death on February 8th, 1930, of Lawrence Jones, senior partner of the well-known firm of London Solicitors, Lawrence Jones & Co., will have brought a distinct sense of personal loss. Having acted as solicitor for one side or the other in the majority of important Canadian cases for some years past before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, he had become well-known to most of the Canadian counsel who had occasion to plead before that tribunal and he had also frequently visited his friends in Canada. It is not too much to say that all who had come in contact with him professionally had acquired the greatest respect and admiration for his abilities and that those who also knew him as a man felt a genuine love and affection for him. His life, though all too short, was one which was crowded with achievement. Born in 1874 at St. Davids, in Pembrokeshire, a son of the Reverend I. Hughes Jones, he began his professional career as a solicitor in the City of Liverpool, later establishing himself in London, where he founded, in conjunction with Mr. Charles O'Malley, the firm afterwards so well-known in legal circles. At the outbreak of war in 1914, though then in his fortieth year and at the head of a large practice, he volunteered at once for active service and received the first temporary commission issued for the Great War. He served in France, where he was gassed, and was finally invalided home, having lost the sight of one eye. He then resumed the active practice of his profession, which he subsequently carried on with conspicuous and constantly increasing success, notwithstanding the physical disability under which he laboured. In addition to a large Privy Council practice in Canadian and West African appeals, he was prominent in cases involving maritime questions and had a very wide connection in shipping and marine insurance circles. His professional abilities were admittedly of the highest order. A graceful and striking tribute was paid him by Sir John Simon, the eminent English advocate, in the following appreciation which appeared in the *London Times*:

The sudden death of Mr. Lawrence Jones, at the age of 56, removes an interesting and attractive figure from the ranks of the solicitors whose business lay largely in Canadian appeals to the Privy Council. He had built up an important professional connection with the Dominion, as well as a good

general practice when, on August 4th, 1914, he dropped it all and enrolled a few hours before war was declared. He lost the sight of an eye when serving in the Army Service Corps in August, 1916, and when he resumed his work as a solicitor after the War, clients and counsel often watched with sympathy his efforts to "carry on" with his injured vision. He was a Pembrokeshire man, and devoted to that beautiful county. The quality about his work before the Judicial Committee which was specially noticeable was his intimate knowledge of every aspect of the case he was instructing the counsel of his choice to argue, and the charming way in which, without interference or presumption, he kept his advocate coached throughout technical and difficult controversy, often involving a minute knowledge of Canadian statutes. He will be greatly missed, and his working life has done much to support the high traditions associated with the greatest Court in the Empire.

Many members of the Bar in Canada who have had the benefit of the assistance of Lawrence Jones in their cases before the Privy Council can bear witness to the truth of the statements in Sir John's letter as to the way in which such assistance was given and its great value. The personal qualities of the man were equally admirable and outstanding and such as to endear him to all who had the privilege of his friendship. Possessing broad general culture, endowed with wide powers of observation, extremely sympathetic and with a keen sense of humour, he was ever a delightful companion. Unselfish and considerate of others to an extreme, he was unsparing of himself in his desire to render services to his friends. The present writer, in common no doubt with numerous other Canadians, can testify to the many kindnesses shown by Lawrence Jones to Canadian visitors to England, kindnesses which in many cases indicated an extreme and unusual thoughtfulness and delicacy of feeling. His family life was singularly happy and those whose good fortune it has been to stay with him at his beautiful country place in Essex will retain a lasting impression of an ideal English home. To his widow and his four young children in their great bereavement will go out the heartfelt sympathy of all. The memory of Lawrence Jones himself will be long cherished by his Canadian friends.

A. WAINWRIGHT.

Montreal.