



THE HONOURABLE WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, D.S.O., LL.D.

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The Honourable William Henry Harrison, D.S.O., LL.D., Justice of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick and Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of New Brunswick died on July 18th, 1955. Mr. Justice Harrison was appointed to the Deanship in 1947. He was then and until his death a member of the Court of Appeal and Chancery Division. Before and after his appointment to the Deanship he lectured on Equity and Trusts. During his tenure and under his leadership the Faculty of Law made substantial progress: the teaching staff was expanded and a splendid building, Lord Beaverbrook House, and an outstanding library were acquired.

At a special meeting of the Saint John Law Society on the occasion of Mr. Justice Harrison's death, Arthur N. Carter, Q. C., LL.D., delivered this tribute:

Mr. President and members of the Saint John Law Society:

On August 22, 1935 it was my privilege, as President of this Society, to extend to the late Mr. Justice Harrison congratulations on his appointment to the Bench. To-day, at your request, Mr. President, I express the sadness and sense of irreparable loss which we all feel in his death.

Mr. Justice Harrison by any standard was a great man: by any standard, too, he was a great citizen and a great Judge. At this gathering of lawyers it is appropriate that we recall the place he has held as a member of our Profession. And deeply attached, though he was, to a multitude of interests and causes, to each of which he gave devoted and inspiring service and leadership, the interest which held the special place in his mind and in his heart was the Law and the administration of Justice, fearless, impartial and unsullied. It would be as a Judge, respected by laymen and revered by his fellow lawyers that he would, I believe, have wished to be remembered. That wish will be realized to the full. His place as one of the great Judges of this Province is secure. He had every quality that a great Judge should have: patience and courtesy in hearing argument; quick appreciation of the value of evidence and an inevitable sense of the right application of legal principles to facts. Moreover, he was a Judge who was also a learned lawyer — of the stature of Chief Justice Barker, and Chief Justice Baxter.

Although this is not the time or the place to refer to the many facets of Mr. Justice Harrison's full life: to his whole hearted devotion to his church, to his University, and to the numerous organizations which he supported and advanced, or to his military career which was distinguished and marked by four years of active service, it is fitting,

I think, that I should refer to his keen interest in young people. For years he was a leader of the Boy Scouts; he assumed a main burden in planning and raising funds for the new Y. M. C. A. building in this City; and for some fifteen years he lectured in the subjects of Trusts and Equity, which were peculiarly his own, at the University of New Brunswick Law School. Of the Law School, too, he was Dean for the last eight years of his life. It is impossible to assess the value of such service as that; of the effect on young men in their formative years of coming into close association with a mind as alert, as well-stored, and as well-disciplined as Mr. Justice Harrison's and with a character as straightforward and as upright as his. We do know that his influence on the young men of the latter generations has been immense and immensely good. Such may well be, although intangible, his most enduring memorial.

Although we who were privileged to enjoy his friendship will recall with pride the distinction with which he graced every field of endeavour in which he engaged, we will recall more often and with sorrowful affection the warm hearted and bouyant companion, so full of keenness for the good things in life, so full of humour, and so ready to help those in trouble. Few by their life have left an example as difficult to emulate or by their death a gap as hard to fill.

"His life was gentle, and the elements
"So mixed in him that Nature might stand up
"And say to all the world 'This was a man'."

The Faculty of Law of the University of New Brunswick passed this resolution:

"WHEREAS The Honourable William Henry Harrison, D.S.O., LL.D. served as Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of New Brunswick from 1947 to 1955 with distinction, contributing in great measure to the enhancement of its reputation and the improvement of its facilities; and

WHEREAS during that period he lectured in Equity and Trusts, stimulating the thought and interest of the students and winning their abiding respect and affection; and

WHEREAS he inspired the Faculty members with his initiative and scholarship and won their devotion through his understanding.

NOW THEREFORE the Faculty wish to record their profound regret at the death of Dean Harrison and to express their appreciation of his services to the Faculty of Law of The University of New Brunswick and to legal education in this Province."