

THE HONOURABLE HUGH GUTHRIE, K.C., M.P.
1866 - 1939

It is no exaggeration when people say that Hugh Guthrie was a "chip off the old block". Like his father, Hugh spent a lifetime in politics and law, attending Osgoode Hall after graduating from GCVI. He was partner in the Guelph law firm, Guthrie and Guthrie.

In 1900, at age 34, Hugh Guthrie first entered the House of Commons in the Liberal Government of Sir Wilfred Laurier. He represented the riding of Wellington South. After seventeen years in parliament, Mr. Guthrie made history when he spoke out against his party. This speech ended his career as a Liberal, but soon afterwards he joined the Tory opposition party and remained with them for seventeen years.

During his thirty years in parliament, Guthrie twice represented Canada abroad. He served as Chief Commissioner and member of the board of Railway Commission (1935-1939), as Solicitor-General of Canada, Minister of Militia and Defence, Minister of Justice (1930-1935), and Attorney-General of Canada.

Hugh Guthrie, K.C., M.P. was interviewed by David Root of Acta Nostra in 1931. He referred to Guthrie's life as one of "sacrifice with little appreciation in return". He then concluded with an appropriate ending: "In public life, as well as private he has always proved himself a gentleman."

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