

## Hugh Cragg Farthing



Hugh Cragg Farthing was born on July 17, 1892, in Woodstock, Ontario. He was of Loyalist descent on his mother's side. He received a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University in 1914. He completed his first year of law school before enlisting as a Lieutenant in the Canadian Expeditionary Force overseas during World War I. He was there from 1915 until 1918. Upon his return, he obtained his law degree from Osgoode Hall in Toronto and was called to the Ontario bar in 1919.

He practiced in Toronto until moving to Calgary in 1923. He was admitted to the Alberta bar on June 5, 1923. Farthing practiced law with various Calgary heavyweights – E.R. Tavender, L.A. Walsh, and F.L. Shouldice – for thirty-five years before being appointed to the District Court of Southern Alberta on February 1, 1958. He remained in that position until he was appointed Justice of the Supreme Court of Alberta, Trial Division just over two years later on April 7, 1960. He retired at the age of seventy-five on July 18, 1967. Farthing passed away eleven months later on June 8, 1968.

Like his contemporary, Justice Tweedie, Farthing was involved in politics and community. He served as a Conservative MLA in the Alberta Legislature from 1930 until 1935. He ran as a Conservative candidate in the 1940 federal campaign and lost.

For twenty-five years, he was the Chancellor of the Anglican Church of the Canadian diocese in Calgary. He was also active with the Red Cross, serving as President of the Calgary Branch in 1928 and President of the Alberta Division in 1947.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Louis A. Knafla and Rick Klumpenhouwer, *Lords of the Western Bench: A Biographical History of the Supreme and District Courts of Alberta, 1876-1990* (Calgary: Legal Archives Society of Alberta, 1997), pg. 41.