

Thomas Mitchell March Tweedie



Thomas Mitchell March Tweedie was born on March 3, 1872, in River John, Nova Scotia. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Mount Allison University and a law degree from Harvard University in 1905. After practicing briefly in Nova Scotia, he soon found himself in Calgary being admitted to the North-West Territories bar on July 10, 1907. He was one of the last lawyers to be admitted to that bar. Admitted to the Alberta bar on September 16, 1907, he practiced nearly fourteen years with A.A. McGillivray.

Like many of his contemporaries, Tweedie became involved in politics winning a seat as a Conservative MLA in the Alberta Legislature in 1911, being reelected in 1913. He was defeated in 1917 at which time he was elected a Unionist MP in the House of Commons. He vacated that position in 1921 when he was appointed to the Supreme Court of Alberta, Trial Division, where he was known for his judgements on civil actions including contracts, bankruptcies, and torts.¹ After twenty-three years as a puisne justice, Tweedie was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alberta, Trial Division on August 16, 1944. Not even two months later, on October 4, 1944, Justice Tweedie died in Lethbridge after attending a dinner honouring his appointment to Chief Justice.

Aside from his active involvement with this organization as a founding member, Tweedie also served as President of the Southern Alberta Branch of the Canadian Patriotic Fund. He was a member of the United Church and was involved with its many volunteer organizations and programs. Tweedie also served as Vice President of the Alberta Chapter of the Canadian Red Cross.²

¹ 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. 183.

² *Ibid.*, pg. 183.