

049-011-001

The Judge Who Is a General

The appointment of Maj.-Gen. P. J. Montague, CMG, DSO, MC, as Chief of Staff of Canadian Military Headquarters in London, with the rank of acting lieutenant-general, will commend itself to the overseas army, with whom his prestige as a competent soldier stands high. In the last war Gen. Montague, whose connection with soldiering dates back 40 years, had a fine record as a brave and capable officer, and toward its close he filled an important administrative post in connection with demobilization. Having returned after the war to his civilian profession of the law, he achieved in the years between the wars such a high reputation that he was appointed a judge of the King's Bench in Manitoba in 1932.

When the war broke out he was 57 years of age and leading a happy and comfortable life in Winnipeg, but the call of the cause of freedom impelled him to offer himself for active service at once. The army authorities at Ottawa made intelligent use of his military gifts and administrative experience by sending him over in the fall of 1939 to be Gen. Crerar's right-hand man in setting up a military headquarters for our army in Britain. Holding the rank of deputy judge advocate-general of the Canadian military and air forces, he has been throughout the war one of the key figures in military administration overseas, and has shouldered very heavy responsibilities with conspicuous success. Moreover, he has a happy knack of getting on well with the British High Command, and is also popular with our own army. So the promotion which has now fallen to him has been well earned by admirable work, and there will be no criticism that, having at 62 reached the age limit for retirement, his period of service has been specially extended till March 31, 1945.

There is no known parallel, at least in British annals, of the same individual being a good enough lawyer to adorn the judicial bench and a good enough soldier to be appointed a chief of staff. The attainment of this dual distinction in widely different fields by Gen. Montague in itself argues the possession of an uncommon combination of talents and qualities.

149
WAR
EUROPEAN
1939
CANADA
ARMY
MONTAGUE