

E. E. A. DUVERNET DIES SUDDENLY FROM APOPLEXY

Crown Prosecutor in the **Nerlich**
Case Succumbs to Strain
of Overwork.

HAD APPEARED IN
MANY FAMOUS CASES

Foremost Authority on Criminal
and Also on Finan-

cial Law.

Death came suddenly last night to E. E. A. DuVernet, K.C., the brilliant Toronto lawyer, an authority, not only on criminal, but on financial law, and a powerful pleader, in his 50th year.

Mr. DuVernet had attended a dinner party given by his law partner, Mr. W. E. Raymond, and was home again, looking over some photographs. Suddenly, an ejaculation was heard from him, and he was seen to collapse. Dr. J. H. McConnell was called in at once, but life had fled. Death had been due to apoplexy, the fatal attack being a cerebral hemorrhage.

"Work killed him," said one medical authority to-day. "He was a tremendous worker all his life. Day and night, he labored hard. The **Nerlich** case trial was undeniably strenuous, apart from the preparation for it. Mr. DuVernet had been in normal health on the day of his demise, but that he succumbed to apoplexy is not surprising."

A busy man to the end, Mr. DuVernet had been connected with many cases. The latest was the prosecution of Emil Nerlich, followed by the defendant's appeal. Argument in the latter preceded Mr. DuVernet by only a few days.

Mr. DuVernet was born in the Eastern Townships, but came to Toronto when a boy. He was educated at Upper Canada College, was called to the bar in 1889, and was created a K.C. in 1908.

He Was a Born Lawyer.

Mr. DuVernet was a "born lawyer." He was related to the great English family of Chitty, from which have come so many great lawyers and judges. While Mr. DuVernet would have succeeded in almost any walk of life, the bent of his mind was obviously designed for law.

Work came first with Mr. DuVernet. In fact, he found relaxation in his work; he loved knotty legal points and their solution. He had tenacity of purpose and a great patience, all working to the same end, to know.

He was skilful in court, and suave. When he found it necessary, however, he could speak his mind very plainly, and always deftly.

Mr. DuVernet, at his death head of the firm of DuVernet, Raymond, Ross & Ardagh, had appeared in many famous cases. In 1890 he was counsel for Louis Deas, charged with murder. Deas was acquitted, and, some years later, Mr. DuVernet, described as a "spectacled young legal gentleman," defended the Bennett gang of "daylight robbers," as they were called. The accused were alleged to have held up clerks of the Home Bank.

The bogus ballot box case of West Hastings saw Mr. DuVernet in the role of investigator, and he acted in a legal capacity in connection with the "Minnie M." aftermath. Election cases were familiar to him, and he represented the city of Toronto at various investigations. But in the case of Merritt against the city of Toronto he appeared for the plaintiff.

Financial Law Expert.

His interpretation of the liquor license laws was sustained in court many times. Ultimately, he argued in the Privy Council with creditable success. As his legal career continued, it also widened, indicating marked versatility. He studied criminal law early, but, in his later years, although never old, he devoted his great ability to financial law, with the result that he excelled at both.

Mr. DuVernet was Crown prosecutor at the Nerlich trial and, associated with John R. Cartwright, K.C., the deputy Attorney-General,

he replied to I. F. Hellmuth, K.C., who appeared for the stated case on behalf of Emil Nerlich, convicted of having conspired to commit an indictable offence. Nerlich was said to have given \$10 to or for the use of one Zirzow, formerly a German lieutenant, to leave Canada and go to Germany.

Mr. Du Vernet at Nerlich Trial.

The Nerlich appeal was heard in the First Divisional Court at Osgoode Hall last week. Mr. Du Vernet represented the implication that the Crown had treated Nerlich unfairly and the indictment had not been properly drawn. At the close, however, he chatted cheerfully, and his smile did not display any symptom of ruffled serenity. Sir William Meredith and his colleagues reserved judgment, so their decision is to come, but present or future responsibilities, however, were not worrying Mr. Du Vernet, so far as one could judge.

Mr. Du Vernet married Julia Sophia Marling, daughter of Alexander Marling, LL.D., formerly Deputy Minister of Education for Ontario. He was an Anglican and a Conservative. He had traveled widely, played golf, but did not own a motor car. His clubs were the Toronto, Albany, York, Toronto Golf, Toronto Yacht, Union (London, Eng.), and Lotos (New York). He was vice-president of the Union Trust, and director of the Union Bank of Canada. He lived in Wychwood Park.

"Did Mr. DuVernet's work on the Nerlich case shorten his life?" The Star asked a specialist.

"It may have done so, because he put forth every effort. But everything he had went into his work, so any other important case entailing strenuous effort might have had the same effect had he survived at this time."

Threats Aimed At DuVernet.

One of the sensations at the conspiracy trial of Emil Nerlich at which Mr. DuVernet prosecuted was his statement that he had "been threatened since the case began." When interviewed, Mr. DuVernet said: "Since this case began I have received bundles of letters and telegrams and telephone calls. The letters came mostly from the United States. They have threatened me with all sorts of things. I do not believe these people (the accused) are responsible for it."

Mr. DuVernet spoke lightly of the threats and said he did not fear the intimidation.