

PHOTONEWS It's a life at

sea after a life of law



MR. JUSTICE CANEY aboard his yacht Quest.

On Monday Mr. Justice Caney will lay aside his judge's robes in the Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg when he retires at the age of 70 after 14 years on the Natal Bench and nearly half a century in the legal profession.

After that he will, more often than not, be found wearing a weather-beaten jacket and faded trousers, sailing one of his two yachts on Durban Bay.

To Mr. Justice Caney there is no sweeter sound than the whisper of water against the hull of a yacht, nor a finer sight than a sail taut before the wind.

An avid yachtsman, he is a former commodore of the Royal Natal Yacht Club and has won a number of racing events.

His retirement will not mean, however, that he intends forsaking the profession he has served for so long.

ON BOOKS

He has taken a small office in the advocates' chambers in Durban where he will work on the second edition of one of his books, "South African Law of Suretyship," act as general editor of the Prentice-Hall Law Reports, and continue writing on legal subjects.

He has also been appointed a member of the Judicial Service Commission of Swaziland which will deal with the selection of judges and magistrates for the territory.

Although he will make occasional visits to Swaziland, much of Mr. Justice Caney's work will be done by correspondence.

Born in Durban, Mr. Justice Caney was educated at Highbury School, Hill Crest, and Durban High School. He qualified as an attorney at the University of Natal.

TOOK SILK

In 1920 he was admitted as an attorney, qualified as an advocate in 1926, and went to the Bar in 1932. He took silk in 1944 and, after serving as an acting judge for several short periods, was appointed permanently to the bench in 1954.

A member of the Women's Legal Disabilities Commission in 1947-48, Mr. Justice Caney was vice-chairman of the General Bar Council of South Africa in 1952, and chairman of the Natal Society of Advocates for several years before he became a judge.

Mr. Justice Caney has taken an active part in several aspects of public life. He was chairman of the United Party in Natal from 1946 to 1948, withdrawing from politics when he was first appointed an acting judge.

OARSMAN

He is a member of the Natal Regional Council of the South African Red Cross Society, patron of the Queen's Park Amateur Swimming Club, and a member of the Durban Turf Club.

He has been the president of Durban Rowing Club for the past 28 years, and a member of the club for 49 years.

He rowed for Durban on many occasions from 1920 onwards and was once described as one of the finest oarsmen in South Africa.

He served as a seaman during World War I and was a member of the Fifth Coastal Defence Corps in World War II.

COLLECTIONS

Apart from yachting, Mr. Justice Caney collects books on Natal and old photographs of Durban. One of his prized books is "A Lifetime in South Africa," by Sir John Robinson, the first Prime Minister of Natal and second Editor of "The Natal Mercury."

This week Mr. Justice Caney completed his last three judgments. On Monday he will be given an official farewell by colleagues in the Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg.