

right of representation, we are at a loss to know. The only admissible principle in the appointment of judges is the selection of the best available men from a professional standpoint. A man's fitness for the position no more depends upon his religious convictions than it does upon the colour of his hair. If a Roman Catholic be the best man, let him be appointed; if a Methodist, let him be appointed. It would, moreover, be a disgrace that appointments to the high and responsible office of a judge should be made to depend upon the political exigencies of any party. To pay any attention to such a claim would also be an admission that the Government is not strong enough to do what is right in the premises. To a large extent, the Government enjoys the confidence of the public. Making a political plaything of a matter so vital to the integrity of the public life of the country must tend to destroy that confidence. A Government would merit only contempt and reprobation should it condescend to use powers given for the public good, for the purpose of bolstering up a political ascendancy. There may be some good reason for delay not connected with political difficulties, but this certainly is not evident. Imagination fails to suggest one.

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As to this delay in filling the present vacancy, it is manifestly the duty of the Government to provide the proper machinery for carrying on the business of the country. A recognized part of the duty, and perhaps the most important, is to see to the prompt and due administration of justice. Even with a full complement of judges, the Ontario High Court can scarcely keep abreast of its work. At the present time, however, there is a dearth of judicial power. There is the vacancy above referred to; there is the absence, in Europe, of Mr. Justice Meredith, owing to ill-health, partly caused by overwork; and the further fact that another judge is unable from physical infirmity to do his quota. The necessary result is that the work of the Court is falling into arrear, to the great annoyance and delay of business men, and, in some cases it is said, to the ruin of litigants. Overworked judges who are busy from Monday morning till Saturday night have no time to prepare judgments, as they have to devote all their time to the hearing of causes. Some of these cases are of course important and intricate, and cannot and should not be decided without full