

It is interesting to notice that during the month of December last that eminent jurist, Lord Halsbury, ex-Lord Chancellor of England, sat in the Court of Appeal during the absence of Lord Justice Vaughan Williams on the Welsh Church Commission. Lord Halsbury is now in his eighty-third year.

Correspondence.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 5th, 1908.

Editor, CANADA LAW JOURNAL:—

DEAR SIR,—We are told that we are to expect legal reform as a special feature of the coming session of the Ontario Legislature. There is a very small point which has just come to my notice and which I should think might well be considered by the powers that be. Our statutes provide for a certain priority of wages in the case of assignments for the benefit of creditors, in winding-up proceedings, over execution creditors, on attachment against absconding debtors, and on administration of estates. But no priority is provided for in the case of distress by a landlord.

The case that is troubling me is one of a poor stenographer whose employer has been distrained on for rent, and who has received no salary for two weeks, and now finds herself without a remedy as the goods distrained are barely sufficient to pay the rent. I can conceive no earthly reason why landlords who may be presumed to be by no means among the less well-to-do classes should be alone able to exercise their special and peculiar privilege of distress in entire disregard of wages due to employees of the lessee, against whom they are distraining.

I suppose it is a last lingering trace of the good old times when landlords had it all their own way, but I should think that it might well be wiped out in Ontario, and claims of wage earners given the same priority as against claim for rent that they have in apparently all other cases.

Yours, etc.,

EQUITY.