

great, and none the less because the public generally does not know how much it owes to one who has in a quiet way and behind the scenes, as it were, done so much to suggest, originate and shape legislation which has proved of the greatest benefit in the administration of justice, and incidentally to the great advantage of the country at large.

It is generally recognized that these honours, though all given for distinguished services to the State, may be classified under different heads, such as: Civil or military, industrial or professional. The honours so worthily bestowed in this case, is one in which all members of the legal profession will, in a sense, share and have a common interest. Sir James Gowan's chief claim to recognition is as a lawyer, and in connection with services which, being a lawyer, he was enabled to perform and carry to a successful completion. It was for reasons such as these that the Bar of Ireland, some years ago, gave him an *ad eundum*.

As we have but recently given a sketch of his life (see ante vol. 36, p. 513) we need not repeat what has there been said. And really it is unnecessary to enlarge, for all are glad to re-echo what we then said, that "his life has truly been a series of public services and patriotic efforts."

THE LAWS OF WAR.

The time is ripe for a second Conference of the Hague, and unless the Czar is prevented by the revolutionary doings within his empire from being present, next summer ought to see all the signatory Powers in attendance. Several important points have arisen out of the late war for the consideration of the Conference; and their determination will prove a boon to commerce and further mitigate the asperities of armed conflict. Perhaps the most important matter of all is the right of mail steamers to immunity from capture. It is well known that the mails are not now by belligerents for the communication of information; the electric cable has taken the place of the mails for such a purpose. The only justification, then, that a belligerent can urge for the detention of a mail steamer is the fact that she may be carrying contraband. It has been suggested that this may be