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CURRENT TOPICS AND CASES.

Sir John J. C. Abbott retires and Sir John S. D. Thompson succeeds to the premiership of the Dominion of Canada. These gentlemen have both been distinguished members of the legal profession. In England lawyers have an inconsiderable part in the government of the country, and that part, it is possible, may become even less. In Canada it is almost a matter of course that one member of the legal profession should succeed another in the office of first minister, and it is equally a matter of course that several of the principal offices in the cabinet should be filled by members of the same profession. When we come down to the local administrations it seems to be the exception to find a minister who is not a lawyer. This state of things is not extraordinary seeing the large proportion of lawyers in our legislative bodies, and the absence of training in other classes for public life. It has some drawbacks, as, for instance, the crude taxation scheme adopted at Quebec last session. It is worth noticing, too, that the new premier of Canada, like the premier of Ontario, has already held judicial office and stepped back with remarkable success into the political arena. Some time ago there was a rumour that the retiring lieutenant-governor of Quebec, who has also been a judge, might be summoned to form an administration in this province. It would have been a curious coincidence had the three most im-