

According to the published list, we see that Mr. Justice Robertson, a judge who it was thought by everybody had retired from the bench, was assigned as the third judge; which would seem to indicate that his retirement was officially unknown to the judges who regulate the sittings of the Court. On the opening day of the sittings Mr. Justice Meredith is said to have been in Toronto, and it was expected that he would take the vacant place, but for some reason he returned to his residence in London. We presume the reason was a good one, for, of course, this learned and excellent judge is aware that the only permissible excuse for the Court sitting with only two judges is "illness or other unavoidable cause" (ante p. 217). Those who have the oversight of these matters are doubtless advised from time to time of the nature of the "causes" which too often attenuate the Court. The profession, however, are not, and they are beginning to evince some little (and not unnatural) curiosity on the subject.

The class of persons whose advertisements as conveyancers and whose eccentric work are sometimes noticed by legal periodicals is represented in Nova Scotia by the rural justices of the peace, who, in many cases, procure the appointment for the sake of the fees they get for work of this kind attracted to their offices. The late venerable Mr. Grantham, K.C., of Yarmouth, tells of a magistrate preparing a deed of some land of his own, in which his wife was to release her right of dower. He took her acknowledgment himself, and certified on the deed that she appeared before him, a J. P., etc., "separate and apart from her husband, and acknowledged, etc." This being related to a group of barristers during a recess of the court, one of them claimed to "go one better" with the following: The J. P., knowing that when the husband's property was conveyed the wife was required to make such an acknowledgment, took for granted the converse of the rule applied when the conveyance was of the wife's property, and so he required the husband to acknowledge "separate and apart from his wife that he executed the deed freely, and without any threat, fear or compulsion, of, from or by her." The registrar of deeds then contributed his story, which was that he had lately received for registration a deed conveying land to "the county of ———, her heirs and assigns." As the vendor was to pay the expense of the