

The Canada Law Journal.

Vol. IV. JULY, 1868. No. III.

BAR OF MONTREAL.

The Annual Report of the Council of the Bar for 1867 shows that the Act of 1866 has already had a marked effect upon the number of admissions to practice and to study. The admissions to practice during the year ending May 1st, 1868, were thirty in number, and the admissions to study only twenty-one. The receipts for the year were \$2,690.20, and the disbursements \$2,053.81, leaving a balance of \$636.90. The number of books added to the Library was 239, at a cost of \$885.

One portion of the Report has an unfavorable appearance, namely, the statement that seven complaints had been brought before the Council of the Section against nine members of the profession. One of these complain to was rejected *in limine*, on the ground that the charge did not impugn the professional conduct of the accused. Another charge was discontinued, and a third was still pending. The remaining four had been decided on the merits. In one case the defendant was suspended from practice for the term of two years. In two other cases the defendants were acquitted, but condemned to pay the costs, in consequence of certain discreditable facts disclosed by the evidence. In the fourth case, one of the defendants was acquitted, but condemned in costs for the same reason; and the other defendant was condemned to be censured by the *Batonnier*, and deprived during three years of the right of voting or being present at the meetings of the *Section*.

At the semi-annual meeting on the 1st of May, Mr. A. Cross, Q.C., was elected *Batonnier*.

JUDICIAL PENSIONS.

In the Canadian House of Commons, on the 14th of May, the principle of the new

Pension Act was carried by 105 to 35. The new Act permits judges who have served fifteen years, or who are disabled by infirmity, to retire on a pension equal to two-thirds of their salary. This is a measure which puts the Lower Canada judges on the same footing as the Upper Canada judiciary, and will, we believe, have a most salutary effect. The certainty of a pension is really equivalent to a very considerable increase to the salaries of the judges. Incompetent or infirm judges must not expect now that their shortcomings will meet with the same tolerance as hitherto. They have no pretext now for not moving off the arena while better men are pressing forward.

ADMISSIONS TO PRACTICE.

On the 17th of June it was decided by the Committee of Examiners for the Montreal Section, that candidates who had not attained the age of twenty-one would not be admitted to examination. It appears that, in one or two instances, a candidate under twenty-one has been examined, the diploma being granted on his coming of age. The words of the statute are: "No person shall be admitted to practice as an advocate, attorney, solicitor, and proctor-at-law, unless he has attained the full age of twenty-one years." This clearly prevents a person under age from practising; and as the examinations are held every three months, there does not appear to be any hardship in requiring the candidate to be of age before presenting himself for examination.

IMPEACHMENT OF JUDGES.

In the latter part of the Session a petition was presented to the House of Commons for the impeachment of Mr. Justice Lafontaine. This is but a renewal of the charges referred to in the 2nd volume of the *Law Journal*. The matter will be investigated by a Committee during the next Session.

A petition was also presented by Mr. Chamberlin, signed by Mr. T. K. Ramsay,