

The Legal News.

VOL. XIII. APRIL 5, 1890. No. 14.

The gift of \$150,000, by Mr. W. C. McDonald, to the Law Faculty of McGill University, is one of the most generous contributions to legal education on record, and coming from a layman—a manufacturer and merchant—should be doubly appreciated. Wisely used, it must, in the course of the next generation, have a very appreciable influence upon the position and standing both of the bench and of the bar. In estimating the amount of the benefaction it must be borne in mind that the law faculty, differing in this respect from the other faculties, is almost exclusively for the benefit of students from the province of Quebec. The income of the gift in the next thirty years will be equal to a quarter of a million dollars, and if five hundred graduates during that time should go forth from the faculty, they would have received aid in their legal education from the endowment to the extent of five hundred dollars each. The result should be a better trained bar and a more learned bench.

The March term of the Court of Appeal at Montreal did not do much to break down the list. By a misunderstanding, the first day was wholly lost, and another term day was a holiday, so that the Court sat on nine days only. Then there were two reserved cases, and two applications for *habeas corpus*, with the usual number of applications for leave to appeal, all of which consumed much time. Three privileged cases further interfered with the progress of the list, and the country cases got two days to which, as it turned out, they were not entitled, as No. 11 was the last case reached on the regular list, while the first country case was No. 17. Of course, in allotting special days to country cases it was not intended to give them precedence, by a whole term, over city cases previously inscribed. The result of the chapter of misadventures was a curious one. A case which had come in sight during the

January term so as to be put on the list for the day, was not reached or called during the whole of the March term, though always on the list for the day! The total number of appeals heard during the term was sixteen.

The districts of Montreal and Quebec, by a singular coincidence, lost their sheriffs on the same day (April 4), a deputy sheriff of Montreal (Mr. Vilbon) having also died a few days before his chief. The sheriffs both entered public life at an early age. Mr. Chauveau, the sheriff of Montreal, was called to the bar in 1841, and in 1844, at the age of 24, was elected to Parliament for the county of Quebec. If not brilliant in any special vocation, he evinced considerable versatility, and a faculty for adapting himself to whatever office was open to him. As Superintendent of Education, as Premier of Quebec, as Speaker of the Senate, and finally as Sheriff of Montreal, most of his days were passed in harness. These official occupations, however, did not prevent him from devoting considerable time to literature, in which line he achieved some distinction. Mr. Alleyne, the Sheriff of Quebec, who had nearly completed his 73rd year, was born in Cork, Ireland. He came to Canada while still very young. In 1854 he became Mayor of Quebec, and entered Parliament the same year. In 1866 he was appointed Sheriff of Quebec.

The retirement of Mr. Justice Field, which took place recently in the presence of all the judges of England (except two absent from illness and several on circuit), is only the eighth instance during the last half century of a common law judge retiring while the Courts were sitting, and receiving a valedictory address. Mr. Justice Field, like Mr. Justice Manisty, began in the other branch of the profession, but after three years' experience as a solicitor he made a "jettison" of everything for the bar. "When I accepted that sacred trust of the office of a judge," he went on to say, "I formed to myself my ideas of what I would do to try to deserve it; that I would administer what was right and in accordance with the truth, and would spare no labour, no pains, no time, to understand what the rights and wrongs