

that, striving at the same time to their utmost that there shall be no disturbance in the ordinary daily routine of the judicial work intrusted to them. I desire to say that we consider it a privilege that we have been called upon to take a greater part in the national work. That in a time of stress the country should turn to the judges for the impartial analysis of evidence and welcome their assistance in important public affairs is one of the greatest tributes that has ever been paid to the Judicial Bench." Had Lord Esher spoken in 1916, no doubt he would have expressed himself in the same sense as Lord Reading, with whose remarks the whole profession will agree.—*Law Times*.

[So far as Canada is concerned we entirely agree with the views expressed by Lord Esher. Lord Reading's eloquence may sway some minds, but not ours. We venture to think the profession in this country would rather favour the sound and safe rule laid down by Lord Esher. What is good for England is not necessarily good for Canada.—*Ed.*]

FOREIGN INFLUENCES IN ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LAW.

A not uncommon conception as to the development of our law is that God and nature conspired to plant its seeds in a favoured island, to foster the growing plant until it achieved a certain maturity, and to cause it to be transplanted to our own land, where it continued to flourish. A very eminent English jurist, only a few years ago, delivered an address at the annual meeting of the American Bar Association, adopting as his thesis the proposition that the geographical situation of England predestined her legal development. He found the explanation of the phenomenon that England alone of the European states escaped the "reception" of the Roman Law in the fact that she was an island, and that "the influences which governed the development of law on the European mainland reached her in an attenuated form" (James Bryce, *The Development of the Common Law*, American Bar Association Reports, 1907, p. 458). Unfortunately for the learned gentleman's thesis, he overlooked the fact—though