

## The Legal News.

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The speech from the throne at the opening of the seventh Parliament of Canada indicates that an important measure will soon be submitted by the Government, it being stated that a Code of the Criminal Law has been prepared in order that this branch of our jurisprudence may be simplified and improved. The Librarians' Report says that the intention of the Government to introduce a criminal law amendment bill having been announced early in the year, the librarians deemed it advisable to provide the necessary authorities for study and debate, and the latest editions of the text-books, and copies of all the reports of royal commissions in England on the criminal law, have been procured. It is doubtful, however, whether during a summer session members will be disposed to give the close consideration to the measure which its importance deserves, and as there is no urgency in the matter, the bill may possibly be allowed to stand over until next winter for further deliberation.

With reference to the license case of *Sharpe v. Wakefield*, the *London Law Journal* says:—"The House of Lords, in a House of five peers strong, has unanimously affirmed the unanimous judgments of the Court of Appeal and High Court to the effect that persons licensed under the Licensing Act, 1828, have no vested interest in their licenses, similar to that possessed by persons licensed before 1869 under the Acts recited in the Wine and Beerhouse Act, 1869; and that, in considering whether the licenses of the persons licensed under the Act of 1828 ought to be renewed or not, the licensing justices may and ought to consider the number of houses in the neighbourhood already licensed, and ought to refuse to renew if they consider that too many licensed houses already exist in the licensing district." The same journal suggests to those interested in renewals, that they must be prepared with affirmative evi-

dence of their own that it is for the advantage of the licensing district that the house in which they are interested should continue to be licensed. As for those interested in the refusal of licenses, the main point for them to bear in mind is that justices are bound in point of law to hear evidence as to the requirements of the neighbourhood.

The *Albany Law Journal* has a useful note on the subject of briefs, which may be commended to the notice of lawyers preparing cases in Appeal. It may be added that in mere typographical accuracy there is much room for improvement. When the names of the authors cited are wrongly printed, one has reasonable ground for suspecting the correctness of the reference to volume and page: "Among the observations that we have made as we have been slowly wading through the perusal of the briefs of counsel in the Court of Appeals is the observation that there is a good deal of art in the printing of points. Some are greatly superior to others in the mere matter of typography. Many very learned briefs are vexatiously inconvenient of reference because of the want of spacing and emphasis. Judges who desire to refer quickly to a certain part of an argument must be seriously hindered sometimes by this slovenly lack of proper arrangement, by which the pages are closely huddled up, and every observation is on a typographical level with the rest. The points themselves should be printed in a bold, heavy-faced letter, and subordinate matter may be put in capitals, italics or common type, according to its importance. Every authority should be in a separate line. Generous spacing should be made, and indentation can be put to good use. One brief—and only one—that we have come across, had a line at the top of each page, stating the contents of the page; this is especially useful in referring to summaries of testimony. This matter is just as important as emphasis is in oral argument. One of the ablest lawyers in this State is a great sinner in this respect, and in perusing his learned arguments, while we always envy his mental powers and his command of case law, we never envy him his notions of printing."