

connection with his duties as commissioner on the arbitration of the Behring Sea claims. To make provision for such an emergency as the absence at one time of three members, the Minister of Justice has introduced a measure authorizing the appointment of *ad hoc* judges. It is necessary that the government should have this power, but it is to be hoped that occasion for its exercise will not arise, as a Supreme Court depending for its working existence on the presence of temporary assistants will lose much of its vitality.

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We made brief reference some time ago to the numerous changes which have occurred in the Supreme Court within a few years, after a long period of stability. Some further alterations will naturally take place in this tribunal in the near future. The present Chief Justice was appointed a puisne judge of the court in 1875, and has served 21 years. He was appointed Chief Justice in 1892. Mr. Justice H. E. Taschereau was appointed a puisne judge in 1878, and has served 18 years in the Supreme Court, besides seven years in the Superior Court, making 25 years in all. Mr. Justice Gwynne was appointed a puisne judge of the Supreme Court in 1879, and has served nearly 18 years in that court, besides more than ten years in the Common Pleas Division of Ontario, making nearly 28 years of judicial service. The other three members of the court have all been appointed recently.

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Mr. Justice Hawkins seems to be in favour of what resembles a modified form of arbitration as applied to jury trials in civil cases. He says: "I do not like the notion of diminishing the number of jurors now required to sit upon a case. But in civil cases I do not see why, *by consent of both parties* in any particular case, the jurors should not be any number not exceeding twelve. Nor do I see any reason why, with the like consent, the verdict should not be—after deliberation for a fixed period of