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The judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada in *Laflamme* v. *The Mail*, grants a new trial, unless the plaintiff will consent to accept a reduction of the verdict from $10,000 to $6,000, which he has since agreed to do. When the case was before the Court of Appeal, Mr. Laflamme's counsel made a formal offer to accept a reduction to that extent, in order to terminate the litigation, but the other side pressed the appeal. The Chief Justice intimated at the time that he had some doubt as to the power of the Court to reduce the amount, without ordering a new trial, and in the end, the verdict was maintained for the full amount. It seems desirable that the law on the subject of verdicts should be reconsidered, and additional discretionary power be vested in the Court.

We have received a copy of the argument of Hon. Edw. Blake, Q. C., before the Privy Council in the Ontario Lands case, *St. Catharines Milling and Lumber Company* v. *The Queen*, which was in substance a controversy between Canada and Ontario as to the ownership of a large portion of the land of the Province, with its timber and minerals. These were all claimed by the Dominion as its property under the B. N. A. Act, or by virtue of an Indian treaty made by the Dominion Government. The argument before the Privy Council lasted seven days, and judgment has since been given in favor of the Province. The shorthand report of Mr. Blake's speech illustrates the conversational character of the discussion before the judicial committee, their Lordships constantly interposing with questions, comment and criticism, in a manner that must prove somewhat disconcerting to a pleader unfolding a carefully prepared argument. Mr. Blake's exposition of the scheme of the Union Act, given in the beginning of his address, is as follows: "First of all, it was to create a federal, as distinguished from a legislative union; but a union composed of several existing and continued entities. It was not the intention of Parliament to mutilate, confound and destroy the provinces mentioned in the preamble, and, having done so, from their mangled remains, stewed in some legislative cauldron, to evoke by some legislative incantation absolutely new provinces into an absolutely new existence. It was rather, I submit, the design and object of the Act—so far as was consistent with the redivision of the then province of united Canada into its old political parts, Upper and Lower Canada, and with the federal union of the four entities, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the reconstituted parts of old Canada, Ontario and Quebec—it was the design, I say, so far as was consistent with these objects, by gentle and considerate treatment, to preserve the vital breath and continue the political existence of the old provinces. However this may be, they were being made, as has been well said, not fractions of a unit, but units of a multiple. The Dominion is a multiple, and each province is a unit of that multiple; and I submit that undue stress has been laid, in the judgment of one of the learned judges below, upon the form which is said to have been adopted, of first uniting and then dividing the provinces. I submit that the motive and cause of that form was the very circumstance to which I have adverted, the necessity of the re-division of old Canada. Three provinces there were; four there were to be; and the emphatic word in that clause is 'four.' But for the special circumstance of the re-division of old Canada, there would have been no such phrase. Again, consistently with and supporting the suggested scheme of the Act, there is to be found important language with reference to provincial institutions and rights of property, which are spoken of as 'continued' and 'retained,' words entirely repugnant to the notion of a destruction and a fresh creation."

The removal of the Circuit Court from the Montreal Court House, so long suggested, has at length been carried out, and increased accommodation has thus been provided for the ever increasing business of the Superior