

generally regarded as deserving of admiration, and the only regrets expressed will be that Quebec law unfortunately does not at the present moment admit of an analogous proceeding.

In Quebec, to the shame of its inhabitants, let it be regretfully said, there is no public opinion. It is quite possible to excite religious or national hatreds, but it is simply impossible to interest the public in the administration of justice. Now-a-days the grand object of man's existence being to make money, the proper administration of the law, the purity of the Bench, and the security of property and life are subjects which do not command public attention. Absorbed in money making, the people of the Province of Quebec have no time for any other occupation. Municipal, protectionist, railway, religious, and political rings, manage the affairs of the country. Seats on the Bench are amongst the prizes offered by political rings for uncompromising support, and it makes very little matter whether *rouge* or *bleu* be in the ascendant, the same principle is acted on by both parties, and generally judgeships are conferred, not on account of fitness for the office, but because it is necessary to provide for a member of the party in power.

The system is radically bad, for in lieu of good lawyers, worn-out politicians are placed on the Bench. If a man is a political failure, *presto* he is made judge, so that there is a very fair chance of the Bench becoming the receptacle for that favored class of the community, which, fifty years ago in England was said to monopolize the Church. Thanks to the system, the Bench of Quebec does not command the respect which is accorded to persons occupying judicial positions in other countries. Complaints against the judges are made from all parts of the Province, and although amongst them are many hard-working earnest and well-read men, yet they have to share the odium with those whose sole qualification for the office was a thorough subservience to their political leaders.

Is it possible to suggest any mode by which none but fit and proper persons should be appointed to the Bench? In the first place, inducements must be offered sufficiently strong to make men cleave to their profession and not forsake its practice for the struggles of the political arena. A judge should be placed in such a position as regards salary as to make him perfectly independent. Judges now-a-days receive in Montreal and Quebec £1000 per annum, the same salary judges received sixty years