

The March appeal term at Montreal was as successful as that held during the month of January, in breaking down the list. Twenty-eight cases were heard or otherwise disposed of, leaving only 49 appeals pending. Cases were heard in ordinary course in which the judgment appealed from had been rendered quite recently. In fact, the list was disposed of up to the point where the appeals taken since January last commenced. Practically it may be said that there are now no arrears in this court, that is to say, parties ready to proceed have had the opportunity to be heard. Of course, a certain number of cases will usually be continued from one term to another owing to the absence or illness of counsel, or because, the evidence being voluminous, considerable time is needed to have it copied and printed. Then, too, counsel have to prepare their argument and have it printed. In most of the cases heard in March the factums were only produced a day or two before the hearing, and the court had repeatedly to urge counsel to be prepared to go on when their cases were reached on the list. The actual order in which the cases were heard shows the indulgence accorded to counsel in this respect. Thus on March 15, the fourth, fifth and eleventh cases were heard; March 16, the twelfth and thirteenth cases; March 17, the twenty-first, forty-seventh and twenty-third cases; and so on. In a circular recently issued by the attorney general the statement is repeated that business in this court is two years in arrear. This mistake was corrected in our issue of January 15 (p. 19), and the facts stated above show that the statement has still less foundation now. If any appeals from judgments rendered in 1898 have not yet been heard it is because counsel were either unable to get the papers ready in time, or, for some reason or other, preferred to postpone the hearing.

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The English bench has suffered serious losses within a few months. The death of Mr. Justice Stephen has