

The Legal News.

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CHIEF JUSTICE MEREDITH.

We do not know whether it is quite in accordance with recognized usage for a professional body to recommend any one, no matter how distinguished, as a proper subject for imperial distinctions. The General Council of the Bar of Quebec is an important assembly, though we should not like to see all their recommendations adopted. In one resolution, however, we heartily concur, and we presume it was the certainty that they expressed the sentiment not only of the profession but of the entire community, which led two very eminent legal gentlemen to propose and second the following resolution at the recent meeting in Montreal:—

Moved by Hon. GEORGE IRVINE, Q. C., seconded by Hon. R. LAFLAMME, Q.C., and unanimously

Resolved, that this council deems it fitting to place on record their warm appreciation of the eminent services rendered as well to the legal profession as to the public by the Hon. Wm. Collis Meredith, chief justice of the Superior Court, during his long and distinguished judicial career, the high character he has always maintained and the universal confidence he has continued to inspire, and to express their belief in the great satisfaction it would give should Her Majesty see fit, in recognition of his services, to confer upon His Honour a suitable mark of her royal favour, and their hope that the matter may be speedily brought to the notice of Her Majesty by the proper authorities. Resolved, that the secretary be instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to the hon. minister of justice.

We need not add anything to the terms of the resolution. The mover and seconder have filled the highest offices in Provincial and Federal administrations, and their recommendation as well as that of the General Council should have some influence. Moreover, on looking back, we find that just three years have glided past since we ventured to make the same suggestion in this journal (*vide* 4 L. N. 169). It is not because Chief

Justice Meredith is Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Quebec that he should be knighted (though this would not be asking much when we reflect that the honour has been bestowed on Chief Justices of places like Fiji), but the distinction should be conferred on the special grounds which are set forth in very moderate terms in the resolution.

A MODERN CHINESE WALL.

What are our friends in the Ancient Capital about? It is all very well to make their Yankee visitors pay sweetly for the privilege of seeing the antiquities in August and September, but now we have the forecast of something more serious. A bill before the Legislature proposes to erect a wall *à la Chinoise* round about Quebec, and here are some specimens of the bricks which are to be used in the construction:—

"119. Every contractor who does not keep house within the limits of the city, and comes to execute contracts or works, must obtain a license from the city clerk, and pay to the city a tax not exceeding five per cent. on the amount of the contracts or works.

"120. Every professional man, business man, mechanic, workman, or day labourer, who has not his residence within the limits of the city, must obtain from the city clerk a license to exercise his profession, art or trade, or to work within the limits of the city, and pay for such license the sum fixed by the council.

"121. For persons who have not their private residence within the limits of the city, the business tax and license shall be double the amount they are for those who have their private residence within the city limits."

Before the lawyer *in partibus* can open his mouth within the sacred precincts, he must elbow his way with the hod-carrier seeking a day's job, in order to get a permit to speak.

This may be all right, but the license for contractors strikes us as particularly amusing. Does not this mean that every proprietor who wants to build or repair a house within the city must pay about five per cent. more, a tax to that amount being levied on competitors from without?

THE LATE CHIEF JUSTICE SPRAGGE.

John Godfrey Spragge, late Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal, Ontario, died at Toronto on Sunday, April 20. The deceased