

This is not, however, the first time that Mr. Justice Osler has been asked to take a seat in the final appellate court of this Dominion, for the position was offered to him in 1888, five years after his appointment to the Court of Appeal, by Sir John A. Macdonald, who recognized his fitness for the office, and whose appointments to the Bench were so generally judicious and acceptable. We venture to think that in his present appointment the Minister of Justice has not been less fortunate than his eminent predecessor; and the Bar of Ontario will be glad that the strength of its appellate court has not been weakened, as it would seriously have been had Mr. Justice Osler decided to go to Ottawa.

JUDICIAL CHANGES IN ENGLAND.

Sir John Gorell Barnes, who retires from the office of President of the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division, has been created a Baron of the United Kingdom. The *Law Times* says of him that "his sound common sense and freedom from prejudice mark him as an excellent President of that Division." Hon. Mr. Justice Bigham, of the King's Bench Division, has been appointed to take his place. Mr. J. A. Hamilton, K.C., takes the vacant seat in the King's Bench Division.

Lord Barnes' services in the past demonstrate that he will prove a tower of strength to the House of Lords and the Privy Council, which appellate tribunals have suffered a serious loss in the untimely death of Lord Robertson on Feb. 2nd last. James Patrick Bannerman Robertson was born in Perthshire in 1845. In 1888 he was made Lord Advocate of Scotland, and in 1899, on the death of Lord Watson, was appointed Lord of Appeal in Ordinary under the title of Baron Robertson of Forteviot.

The British public are to be congratulated upon these and other judicial appointments made by Lord Loreburn. The Lord Chancellor happily declines to be limited in his selection by political considerations, a limitation which in this country has too often proved detrimental to the reputation of the Canadian judiciary as a whole, and therefore injurious to the country at large. When will people learn the folly of sacrificing such important interests to the exigencies of party politics?