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The vacancy in the Ontario Bench is still unfilled, to the inconvenience of litigants and thereby throwing an undue pressure of work on the other judges. It is high time that an appointment was made. We have been told that it may be expected shortly, as the Dominion elections will soon be over, which remark to some would seem to convey more than meets the ear. From a political standpoint there may be a good reason for the delay; but that is not a satisfactory excuse from other points of view.

Some of our contemporaries amuse themselves with foreshadowing appointments of this or that man, based on conjectures as to his religious proclivities. We are sorry to see such ideas prevalent inasmuch as they tend to create the impression that those in authority are justified in making appointments on such grounds, instead of those of personal and professional fitness for the office. To appoint a man a judge because he happens to belong to a particular creed, apart from the question of his personal and professional fitness for the office, is an abuse of power, a prostitution of the office, and a gross injustice to the community.

A valued correspondent from Hamilton, in a letter which we publish in this number (post p. 630), calls attention to a very important matter, and one which we have already referred to in these columns. He very properly characterizes sec. 606, sub-s. 3, of the Municipal Act, as a most iniquitous provision. How it ever came on the statute books is a marvel. It should at once be amended. We are glad to know that the attention of the Municipal Committee was called to this matter last session, and it was very nearly struck out on that occasion, but coming up at the close, there was not time to give it sufficient consideration. We trust that some member will make a point of seeing to this next session; though very possibly after what was said about it in committee, the Government may have a clause drafted to make necessary amendments, possibly in the direction suggested by Mr. Farmer.