

The Legal News.

VOL. XIV. JUNE 27, 1891. No. 26.

The members of the Montreal bar are just now occupying a leading place in our legislative bodies. One very old member is premier of the Dominion; another is premier of the province; a third is speaker of the Senate; a fourth was speaker of the Commons in last Parliament; a fifth is Secretary of State for Canada. Others take high place in debate and committee work.

The several thousand law clerks who now toil in the city offices, says a New York journal, are quite a different set of beings from their predecessors. "The majority of them are well educated. Some have graduated from well known colleges—from Harvard, Yale, Cornell and Princetown. Others are graduates of law schools. Never was there a time like the present, when so many college-bred men were glad of the opportunity to become law clerks at a beggarly salary. Every year lawyers of standing in our cities have applications from college graduates, ready and willing to work without pay, if he will only give them desk-room and the use of his books. Consider, for a moment, the pay of these ambitious young men. The college-bred law clerk usually begins at \$5 per week. He may reasonably expect to earn \$10 per week by the end of the second year. The graduate of a law school, having had some technical training, is better paid. He gets \$10 per week for the first year of his service, and perhaps he may begin his second year at \$15 per week. Very few lawyers in New York pay their clerks over \$15 a week, as they can hire all the talent they want at that figure. There are between six thousand and seven thousand lawyers in the city of New York. The struggle for practice and existence becomes more difficult each year. Many are called, but few are chosen. Some men never get beyond being a law clerk. It is no uncommon thing to find skillful lawyers, gray-haired men, serving as clerks, year after year,

at a salary of from \$1,200 to \$1,500 per annum. Some of them are experts in a particular branch of the law. Again there are men fit only to be law clerks—men who, for one reason or another, fail to become successful practitioners. The legal knowledge of such men is of more value to others than it is to themselves. Once more, there are highly educated law clerks who make it a business to write briefs. Indeed, it is an open secret that nearly one-half of the law books published are written by ill-paid clerks. The lawyer with a reputation gets some clerk to write a treatise to which he lends the weight of his name."

The oldest Coroner in England, Michael Browne, died recently at the age of ninety. He had held the office of Coroner for the borough of Nottingham during a period of fifty-five years. In length of service we believe he is about equal to Coroner Jones of Montreal. The latter in age is but a few years behind.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH— MONTREAL.*

Carrier—Bill of lading—Place of destination of goods beyond carrier's route.

*Held:—*Where the place of destination of goods is beyond the carrier's route, and he receives the goods under a bill of lading to the terminus of his route, and carries them safely to that point, to which alone he received the freight, the fact that at the request of the shipper he undertook to deliver the goods to another carrier to complete the transportation, does not make the first carrier responsible for the delivery of the goods at the place of destination.—*Jeffrey & Canada Shipping Co., Dorion, C. J., Baby, Bossé, Doherty, J. J., Tait, J. ad hoc, January 24, 1891.*

Bank—Advance made upon security of shares of another Bank—Obligation to return shares on repayment of advance.

Held:—(DORION, C. J., and CHURCH, J., *diss.*) Where in order to evade the law pro-

* To appear in Montreal Law Reports, 7 Q.B.