

The constitution of the new Russian National Assembly is but a sop to the Cerberus of democracy. It is in no wise a revival of the old zemsky sobor, which corresponded to the Witenagemote of our Saxon forefathers, but a *duma*—a purely advisory body. The zemsky sobor regulated taxation and public expenditures, and even elected Czars; on the other hand the new *duma* has no real power as a law-making or administrative body, and cannot be called a representative institution seeing that it is based upon a suffrage limited to less than five per cent. of the adult male population of the empire. However, absolute freedom to express opinions upon matters within the competence of this body will be allowed to its members; and so it will have its use in preparing the country at large for a real measure of representative government which is sure to come in a decade or so, even to slow-going, ignorant Russia.

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As we go to press it is announced that the vacancy on the Supreme Court Bench caused by the retirement of Mr. Justice Nesbitt has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Justice Maclellan of the Court of Appeal for Ontario. We congratulate the learned judge upon his promotion. The good wishes of the Bar of Ontario will go with him. A most courteous judge, a man of the highest character and a kind friend, he will be missed by a large circle in the City of Toronto where he has spent most of his life. Mr. Justice Maclellan was born in 1833. In Michaelmas Term, 1857, he was called to the Bar, and was appointed to the Court of Appeal in October, 1888. His career up to that time is referred to, ante, vol. 24, p. 546.