

The Legal News.

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CORONERS' INQUESTS.

At the time the bill respecting Coroners' Inquests was introduced last Session by Mr. Mercier, we ventured to express a fear that the bill went too far, in limiting inquests to very special cases (2 Legal News, p. 273). Public opinion and the experience of a twelvemonth have fully borne out our apprehensions. The Act of last Session led to many unseemly occurrences—Coroners unable to act, and bodies lying unburied, in cases in which there was clearly occasion for an inquiry into the cause of death. We see with satisfaction, therefore, that the Solicitor General has introduced a bill which proposes to repeal the Act of last year (42-43 Vict. c. 12), and to substitute a law which authorizes coroners to proceed at once to hold an inquest when "furnished with a requisition in writing, signed "by any representative of the attorney-general, "by any district magistrate, by any clerk of the "peace, or by the mayor, curé, clergyman, pastor, missionary, or any justice of the peace, of "the locality."

A JUDGE'S VALEDICTORY.

There is something pathetic as well as unprecedented in the leave-taking of Mr. Justice Bleckley, of the Supreme Court of Georgia, who sent in his resignation recently. Unlike the Archbishop of Grenada, Justice Bleckley apparently did not require the reminder of a too faithful Gil Blas, to warn him of mental decadence. In his letter to the Governor, he assigned as the reason for the step, that he discovered in himself intellectual failings inconsistent with the proper discharge of his functions, considering the great mass of work devolving upon the Court. He was slow and laborious, writing an opinion only after long research and much mental labor; and he did not desire that his lack of readiness should be an impediment to the reasonably rapid discharge of the duties of the bench. When the day came for the Judge to take his leave, after reading opinions in several cases before the Court, he pronounced his farewell in the follow-

ing words, expressed in the form of a judicial opinion:—

"In the Matter of Rest.

BLECKLEY, J.

"Rest for the hand and brow and breast,
For fingers, heart, and brain!
Rest and peace! a long release
From labor and from pain:
Pain of doubt, fatigue, despair—
Pain of darkness everywhere,
And seeking light in vain!

"Peace and rest! are they the best
For mortals here below?
Is soft repose from work and woe
A bliss for men to know?
Bliss of time is bliss of toil:
No bliss but this, from sin and soil,
Does God permit to grow."

These lines he read slowly and with emphasis, and when he had directed that they be entered upon the minutes of the Court, the Judge took his leave, intending, it is said, to retire to the mountains of Georgia for relaxation. Some of his brethren, suffering from the languor produced by unremitting labor, will be inclined to sympathize with this over-strained Judge, and all will wish him happiness and peace, in the retirement which he has been forced to seek.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

February 26, 1880.

BOURGOIN et al., Appellants, and LA COMPAGNIE DE MONTRÉAL, OTTAWA & OCCIDENTALE, Respondents.

The M., O. & O. Co. could not dissolve or transfer its undertaking without the authorization of the Parliament of Canada—C. C. 369.

On the conclusion of the judgment reported *ante*, p. 177, *Mr. Doutré, Q. C.*, intimated that, after consultation, the counsel for the appellants had come to the conclusion that even if the award were pronounced to be bad, that could affect only two of the appeals, and that they were desirous to argue the two other appeals. After some discussion their Lordships assented to the adoption of this course. Those appeals were accordingly argued, and on the 26th day of February their Lordships* delivered the following judgment upon them:

* Sir Robert P. Collier was not present.