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Hon. Mr. Justice Ferguson, of the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice for Ontario, passed away on the 31st ult. His health had been failing for some time. He was an able, painstaking and conscientious Judge; and his loss will be much regretted.

We notice that the objectionable practice of appointing judges to do extra judicial work is being continued. We should have supposed that the Governments of the Dominion and Ontario would by this time have realized the damaging results that necessarily flow therefrom. But it would seem that the juggernaut of party politics still holds the right of way. Surely if it is necessary to ascertain why some United States engineers are employed on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, the information could be obtained without taking a judge from his proper duties on the bench, and incidentally running the risk of dragging the judiciary into politics.

We feel that we owe our professional readers no apology for our persistency in urging the political union of Newfoundland and Canada. What concerns the national welfare finds an instant recognition in the hearts of Canadian lawyers, than whom there is no more zealously loyal class of citizens in the Dominion. Since our last issue the consummation we so devoutly wished has been advanced a stage by the outspoken pronouncement in favor of Confederation by Archbishop Howley, head of the Roman Catholic Church in the island. Archbishop Howley is a far-sighted and broad-minded Imperialist, and his words cannot but bear good fruit among the people of Newfoundland. But it will take a lot of sentiment to offset the present active pro-American policy of the Newfoundland legislature. The recent grant by that body of a virtual monopoly of the cold storage and fresh fish business to a subsidized American firm shows how indifferent the politicians there are to the commercial interests of Canada and British ascendancy in British America. Facts like this and the Bond-Blaine treaty, which Great Britain was short-sighted enough to promote, shew us how urgent is the need for a vigorous agitation for Confederation being instituted by the people of this Dominion.