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The vacancy in the High Court of Justice for Ontario caused by the death of Hon. Mr. Justice Ferguson has been filled by the appointment of Mr. James Magee, K.C., of London, Ontario. The appointment has been well received in the city where he has been practicing for some thirty-seven years, and we may well assume that he will be a useful addition to the Ontario Bench. Mr. Magee was born in Liverpool, and came to this country in 1855, settling in the Canadian County of Middlesex. He was called to the Bar in 1867, and has practiced in London ever since. In February, 1893, he was made a Queen's Counsel and also appointed County Crown Attorney for the above county.

THE BOARD OF RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS.

A noteworthy evidence of the development of modern business life is the Court—for Court it is—which has its headquarters at Ottawa—the newly-formed Board of Railway Commissioners. The work of this Court is most important, and is of much variety, although its jurisdiction concerns only one branch of the great industries of to-day; yet this branch is one which touches a multitude of others.

We doubt not the members of the Court fully realize their responsibility as holding a judicial position charged with very important duties. Whilst having many matters to decide connected with railway and traffic arrangements and conflicting railway interests, they will also have to stand between these gigantic and influential companies and the public, and will see the necessity of protecting the latter, and individuals therein, from the greed and overbearance too often characteristic of rich and powerful corporations. Railway companies have their rights as well as others, but being largely monopolies there is a strong temptation to act without full consideration of what is due to others, and they are transparently alive to their own interests. Presumably, therefore, those who have to deal with them have the greater need of protection.