

The Legal News.

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The vacancy in the Court of Queen's Bench, created by the death of Mr. Justice Ramsay, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Church, Q.C. While regret must be felt that some of the seniors of the profession, such as Messrs. Bethune, Abbott and Kerr, have been once more, and, it may be, as to some of them, finally passed over, it is satisfactory to learn that the choice of the government has fallen upon a gentleman so well qualified as Mr. Church. The new judge has been 28 years at the bar, and has filled the offices of Attorney-General and Treasurer in provincial administrations. He has acquitted himself well in these positions, and for a number of years has been the senior member of the firm of Church, Chapleau, Hall & Nicolls, a prominent city firm. Mr. Church is personally much esteemed, and, although he has a difficult rôle to fill, in succeeding to a judge so distinguished as Mr. Justice Ramsay, there is every reason to believe that he will be an ornament to the position. The sayings of the honoured dead, under proper reserves, are matter of history, and we do not think there is any indiscretion in disclosing that when Mr. Church's name was publicly mentioned, about two years ago, in connection with another judicial position, Mr. Justice Ramsay expressed to the writer his admiration for Mr. Church's great ability as a lawyer, and his belief that the appointment, if made, would be a highly satisfactory one.

The appointment of Mr. Melbourne M. Tait, Q.C., to the district of Bedford, in the room of Mr. Justice Buchanan, resigned, has given general satisfaction. Mr. Tait has been 24 years at the bar, and during the greater part of that time has been a prominent member of the firm of Abbott, Tait & Abbotts, and constantly engaged in the most important commercial cases. Mr. Tait's name has been publicly mentioned

in connection with this appointment for several weeks past, and during that time we have failed to hear a single word of disapproval; on the contrary the leading men of both parties have expressed their entire satisfaction at such an excellent selection. The bar of Bedford are to be congratulated on their new judge. The only regret we have to express is that Mr. Tait has not been appointed to the city bench, in which position his long experience in commercial cases would have been directly available. However, the new judge will naturally give to the city such time as may be spared from the work of the Bedford district, and we hope that at no remote day he may be transferred permanently to Montreal.

The forthcoming issues of the *Montreal Law Reports* have a melancholy interest owing to the large share which the opinions of the late Justices Ramsay and Torrance have in their composition. It is wonderful, in looking back upon the reports of the last few years, to note the activity which these two lamented judges have constantly manifested. With regard to Mr. Justice Ramsay, the reader will find no indication of shrinking from difficulties. Some of the opinions are exhaustive treatises upon the subjects under discussion. Note, for instance, the fulness of the opinions in *Langlais & Langlais*, 9 L. N. 90; in *Cadot & Ouimet*, M. L. R., 2 Q. B. 211; in *Macdougall & Demers*, M. L. R., 2 Q. B. 170; in *Corner & Byrd*, M. L. R., 2 Q. B. 262; and in *Jones & Cuthbert*, M. L. R., 2 Q. B. 44. After reading the opinion in *Cadot & Ouimet*, we expressed some surprise that he should have found time for such an elaborate review of the law, and remarked that it must have occupied at least an entire week. "More than that," replied the judge with a smile, and in a tone which implied that the estimate fell considerably short of the fact. In addition to all this labour which devolved upon him in the course of his judicial duties, he found time for such papers as occur in 9 L. N. 97, in which the measures introduced for the amendment of the criminal law are fully reviewed, and in 8 L. N. 313, upon the Boundary question, and for the prosecution of his work in digesting