

So far, no appointment has been made to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Chief Justice Burton and the promotion of Chief Justice Armatr and Mr. Justice Falconbridge. One rumour has it that a learned Judge is to go from the Court of Appeal to the Queen's Bench Division, his place being taken by a gentleman better known in political than in legal circles. We understand that the present Government claims to be a strong one, and, if so, an evidence of its strength would be to appoint the very best obtainable man at the Bar apart from politics. It has been remarked that in all countries where there is a free Government such as ours, when one of the political parties has been in opposition for many years, and then comes into power, there is always a large army of political adherents seeking office, and the pressure for some position becomes a serious menace to the public service. There is nothing new in this, and it applies to all political parties; but it is sincerely to be hoped that the appointment now to be made will be one which will reflect credit on the Government of the day, and not one which would be the result of political exigency. If any Government makes the Bench a haven of refuge for worn-out politicians, the hitherto usual high character of judicial appointments will sink through the level of mediocrity to that of incompetence. Judges ought to be looked for amongst the vigorous leaders of the profession. With one or two exceptions, Sir John Macdonald acted on this principle, so far as the Bench was concerned, though his appointments to the position of Queen's Counsel were, as a whole, anything but creditable. Again, whilst we do not believe in the fad of placing young men, as such, on the Bench, to appoint those who are subject to any infirmity or who are too far advanced in life, and especially if they are politicians rather than lawyers, is a grave mistake, and we are confident that we voice the thought of the profession when we protest against the Bench being made a dumping ground for useless political timber by any political party. There may be no danger of this at the present juncture, but as there is an ever-present dread in that direction owing to the fact that in this country party politics run high, and because we live beside a people of the same race as ourselves where the judiciary is elective, and therefore directly subject to political influence, we feel justified in calling attention to this most important matter at a time when we can