

EDITORIAL NOTES.

expired, or effete. Whatever Mr. Wicksteed does is well done. But not merely are we glad to see his handiwork on this occasion for its own intrinsic merits and usefulness, but because these tables of his seem to foreshadow some work on the consolidation of the statutes applicable to the Dominion. Mr. Cockburn has a herculean task before him which should be pushed forward with energy. We confess what with conflicts between federal and provincial rights, questions of jurisdiction without end, disputes as to boundaries, and consolidation of laws perpetually changing, one feels for this youthful Dominion much the same as for the traditional "young ducks whose troubles are just beginning."

MR. Z. A. LASH, Q. C., who some time since succeeded Mr. Hewitt Bernard, Q.C., Deputy Minister of Justice, has resigned his position, and enters again the active practice of his profession. He will be much missed in Ottawa, but will be welcome in Toronto. He was a very efficient public servant, discharging with fidelity and satisfaction the responsible duties of his office. There are few positions harder to fill with advantage to the public and usefulness to the Chief Minister, than that of Deputy Minister of Justice, and every day, as constitutional questions come to the front, there is greater need for a first-rate man; whilst, of course, in such a position the best lawyer would be practically useless if he were not also a courteous, intelligent and prompt man of business, in whose discretion and ability his chief would have implicit confidence. The man who worthily fills the place of Mr. Bernard (*facile princeps* in the position he occupied) and Mr. Lash, will be one hard to find.

We speak of Canada being a much governed people, with its nearly two dozen "estates of the realm." But we have not heard of a much more judged district than at present

presided over by Mr. Justice McCreight, at Cariboo. A correspondent states that there is an adult population of 19, to be looked after by a full fledged, and we believe, learned and competent judge of the Supreme Court, who has been banished from the capital, and divorced from the rest of the court. During the past year, his work is said to have consisted of trying some ten County Court cases. One could almost suppose that this high average of suits to the population, was brought about by the learned judge setting this seething population by the ears, just "to keep his hand in." The government, however, on the Pacific coast do things in a peculiar way. Take another example. Instead of the judges making their own rules of practice, as is usually the case, the Attorney General, under the name of the Lieut.-Governor in Council, takes the task upon himself. If he attended to his own sphere of labour, and let the judges attend to theirs, things would probably be better done.

The changes now being effected in connection with Osgoode Hall Library, are, like all great revolutions, accompanied by considerable suffering to those accustomed to the old order of things. The removal of some of the tables to the room down stairs would no doubt be generally welcomed, provided, the gentlemen who are in the habit of doing office work on these tables, were sufficiently closely attached to them to go with them. The unfortunate thing is that the tables go, but a great proportion of the gentlemen in question appear to remain; and we fear it will be very difficult to extend the eliminating process beyond the tables themselves, unless a room be found up-stairs for the benefit of those who have such work to do. It must be, no doubt, extremely inconvenient to have to go up-stairs to the library whenever it is necessary to refer to a book on practice, or to a volume of the reports. It is disappointing too, to find that although clerks do not "follow tables,"—though