

(somewhat sleepily) by day. Others have thrown up lucrative practices to assist in the various government departments; while not a few "silks" have got commissions in the Navy. Indeed, when the question, "Which of the professions (apart from the services) has taken a leading part in the greatest war in history," comes to be asked, the gentlemen of the long robe need not fear the answer.

NO NEW SILKS IN WAR TIME.

The decision of the Lord Chancellor not to create any more new "Silks" during the war was not unexpected and is generally approved. The theory is that, by refusing to allow any more juniors to pass within the Bar, the field will be kept open for those who are now serving with the forces. Those of the legal profession who by reason of age or infirmity have been compelled to remain behind are loyally endeavouring to second the effort of the Lord Chancellor to protect the interests of those who are upholding the honour of the profession abroad. But the task of keeping a practice together for an absent friend is one of great difficulty. Unlike a solicitor or a doctor, the advocate cannot, in the nature of things, have a partner. His is a personal connection. If he absents himself from his chambers and the Courts—howsoever good his reason for doing so—his clients must employ other counsel, and he may be forgotten. With all the goodwill in the world, neither his fellow barristers (who "devil" his briefs in his absence) nor the solicitors can be certain of keeping his practice together, for, after all, it is the lay client who must finally decide who is to hold the brief. There is, however, one consolation for those who have made these great sacrifices. The legal profession is a close box. The Lord Chancellor has much patronage. The man who has thrown aside his wig and gown may feel sure that, when peace is restored, the Keeper of the King's Conscience will remember the claims of him who answered the call of duty in the hour of his country's need.

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