

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS IN ONTARIO.

the same period the election is avoided. In the North Grey case, followed by the Lincoln case, Mr. Justice Gwynne, in very elaborate and ingenious judgments, endeavoured to confine the section to innkeepers, and suggested an interpretation of the statute which would not, under the facts of the North Grey and North Wentworth cases, require the disqualification of candidates. The Court of Appeal, however, in giving judgment in the North Wentworth case, thought these views could not be entertained without doing violence to the wording of sec. 3 sub-sec. 2 of 38 Vict. cap. 2, and upheld the decision of Chief Justice Draper; and, in the North Grey case reversed the judgment of Mr. Justice Gwynne. It is probable that some changes in the law on this subject will be made next session.

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THERE was no dearth of excitement amongst the frequenters at Osgoode Hall during the last month. Every day some fresh name was suggested as a possible recipient of royal favour, and the merits and deficiencies of those likely to be appointed to the Bench of the Supreme Court and to the consequent vacant seats in our own courts were freely discussed.

We understand, however, that Robert Alexander Harrison, Q.C., succeeds Hon. William Buell Richards, as Chief Justice of Ontario, and that Thomas Moss, Q.C., is appointed one of the Justices of the Court of Error and Appeal for Ontario, in place of Hon. S. H. Strong. There will be nothing but kindly congratulation from their brethren to those who have been taken from amongst them to fill these offices.

The Government of the day has evidently followed the English practice that no judge has by virtue of his position

any right to expect promotion on the Bench. We have consistently upheld the propriety of this rule, and we are therefore not called upon to speak of those already on the Bench who would have filled these positions with credit to themselves and benefit to the country.

Both Mr. Harrison and Mr. Moss have had a large experience at the Bar, especially Mr. Harrison, than whom probably no man in Canada has held as many briefs for the time he has been practising, and no one has been more successful. From the very first he took kindly to law, and having achieved the highest honours as a student, he rapidly rose to professional eminence. Painstaking and industrious to an extent never surpassed, he has made the most of his time and his talents. The prompt administration of justice is an incalculable boon to litigants. The new Chief Justice is in the prime of life, a quick and indefatigable worker, a sound lawyer and of varied experience in all the details of professional business. We are satisfied that the qualities which caused him to be so sought after at the Bar will make him a most satisfactory and useful judge.

We cannot take leave of him without expressing our especial gratification, that one who at one time was one of the editors, and for many years was a valued contributor to this journal, aiding largely in its success, a most genial and zealous fellow worker, should have received the high compliment which has now been paid him. Mr. Harrison is one of the few lawyers of Ontario who has attained a position as a legal writer; his numerous publications have been most useful to his brethren and to others; and we must look upon his appointment as in some sort a recognition of his worth and usefulness as a law writer.

Mr. Moss brings to his new position an intellect and attainments far above the average, and a knowledge of law pos-