

BENCH MUST REMAIN PURE

Toronto Saturday Night - A number of men were discussing current events a few days ago when one of them remarked that the holder of a certain office, in order to assure his impartiality, should be "appointed for life like the judges." This was at once challenged by one of those present, who said: "Our judges are not appointed for life." "They are appointed for life on good behavior," insisted the first speaker. "It used to be so, and the people still so understand it, but it is no longer so. In Canada a judge is appointed to a court, not for life, but until he shall receive a better appointment—a promotion to a higher bench with a larger income."

That is the size of it. The old idea was that when a man was once made a judge he remained always a judge and could deal out justice without fear or favor, being secure for life in a position, from which even the power that placed him there could not remove him. He was supposed to sit on the bench unmoved by fear, for he was above attack, beyond its reach; he was supposed to sit on the bench unaffected by favor, for he had left all the lures of business and politics behind him, had nothing to ask from anybody, sat isolated and superior, in a fixed place, dispensing justice with even hand to all. Such was the judge, or so he seemed to the eye of the general observer.

But an alarming change of opinion appears to be spreading over the country, revealing itself in the columns of the newspapers and in popular conversation. Not infrequently one sees a Conservative paper throw out the taunt that "it would be interesting for a change to see any judge anywhere between the Atlantic and the Pacific decide an election case against the government of the day." I am not endorsing this taunt and it may be wholly uncalculated by the facts, but the desire to taunt and the readiness of the people in the street conversation to speak disrespectfully of the bench and to impute partisan motives to judges, is a comparatively new thing and not desirable. The implicit faith in the judiciary that once distinguished us and of which we were wont to boast has largely disappeared of late and the more cynical among the people go about remarking that while a political party in power cannot dismiss a judge whose decisions give offence, they can reward by promoting any judge whose decisions are specially pleasing. No person will deny that the judiciary would be brought into reproach if judges were to seek promotion by delivering judgements that were meant to be acceptable to a political party in power. But even though not a judge on a bench were capable of self-seeking, evil enough is done when a system of promotion is followed, one

Judge mounting up, another standing still while a partisan public looks on making increasingly cynical conjectures as to why this judge ascends the ladder while that one remains where he was. Squared, looked at, there is no doubt that the independence of the judiciary can be as much endangered by favors as by fears; and it would be little worse to permit a political party in office to discharge any judge who gave unfriendly decisions, than it would be to permit the rewarding by promotion of any judge who handed out friendly decisions. In the interests of all, there should be no promotion of judges. A man should be made a judge and he may have the finest possible sense of honor, but he will remain a human being.

If promotion be possible it will be deemed an honor, and it will mean profit; therefore, the judge will desire it. The hands that will hold the favor will be partisan, and perhaps at times none so scrupulous. Even though there may be a popular confidence reposed in the man who sits on the bench, there may be little reason to repose confidence in the politicians who carry in their hands power to reward judges, and when promotions are made partisans will draw prejudicial inferences. In enough that they should be pure; connection with our courts, it is not there must be popular confidence in their purity, for the appearance of evil is only a little less bad than its active presence. The system of promotion is bad because it associates the judiciary with partisanship in men's minds; it permits bad because it leads onlookers to feel that the ambitions of a judge may be dependent upon the success of one political party. Canada seems to have drifted unconsciously into this system without any proper discussion of it in the country or in parliament.

It is perhaps, just about the gravest question that could engage the attention of parliament, for should the same faith in the judiciary that has always existed among us, be once destroyed, it could never be restored.

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THE LAND OF ICEBERGS

It is the icebergs that make Labrador fascinating. They greet you when you steam out of the straits of Belle Isle, the northern gateway of the gulf of St. Lawrence, and head northward up the coast of Labrador. They come floating from the north, an endless procession, of all shapes, fantastic, colossal, statuesque, even grotesque—a magnificent assemblage of crystal domes and

turrets and marble fortresses. Your steamer picks its way carefully among them lest they be jealous of her intrusion and fall over upon her. In the midst of this gorgeous company you come to Baltic Harbor.

The settlement is on an island perhaps two hundred yards in diameter which is the outpost of a larger island, and ploughs the waves of the ocean like the prow of some gigantic liner. In storms the spray leaps across its ledgy surface. A cove hides behind the bluff sea wall, and on its rim nestles a tiny village of whitewashed cottages. You climb the hill to the lookout. Away to the north and south, spreads out the vast procession of icebergs. They out of the north, the fog surrounding their tops and streaming like smoke from their pinnacles. They move slowly southward, perhaps two or three miles a day. Some go directly south down the Newfoundland coast, some turn west as they approach the straits and are swept by the tide into the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Day by day from the hilltop you note their slow progress. Each day sees new forms emerging on the northern horizon, while old familiar bulks are lost to view in the south. Each month's icebergs are natives of a more northerly region. Hence the bergs of the late summer, though fewer in number, are individually larger than those of the earlier part of the season, because they have been longer in the making, coming from farther north.

June icebergs are Labrador's own product. July's bergs come from Duffin land, while the huge bulks of August are natives of Kane Bay and the far northern rim of Greenland where man has never been.

SELLING SNOW IN SYRIA

Counsel Jessie B. Jackson, of Alexandria, described the method in Asia Minor of providing a substitute for ice:—

Snow is gathered in the adjacent mountains and packed in a conical pit, tamped in tightly and covered with straw and leaves. At the bottom of the pit a well is dug, with a drain connected at the bottom to carry off the water from the melted snow. At the cost of collecting and storing is very small, the only labor is in delivering it to consumers which is accomplished by pack horses. The selling price is 15 to 25 cents a hundred pounds.

If "taken at the sneeze stage" Preventics—a toothsome candy tablet—will surely and quickly check an approaching cold or Grippe. When you first catch cold or feel it coming on—take Dr. Shoop's Preventics, and the prompt effect will certainly surprise and please you. Preventics surely supply the proverbial "ounce of prevention." Sold in 5 cent and 25 cent boxes by the Regina Pharmacy Stores.

A tragedy has been enacted at White Fish, a little railway village on the Soo branch of the C.P.R. An English woman, whose husband is an engineer with the Copper Cliff Co., suddenly became demented. She took her two children, aged three and eight years from bed and carrying them out laid them in the snow and cut their throats with a knife. She then used the weapon upon herself. When the neighbors found the bodies one child was still breathing but soon expired.

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