

## The Legal News.

VOL. VII.      AUGUST 9, 1884.      No. 32.

### JUDICIAL CHANGES IN ENGLAND.

The vacancy in the Queen's Bench Division caused by the death of Mr. Justice Williams; noticed on p. 248, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Alfred Wills, Q.C., a counsel who has been engaged in several cases from this city before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The *Law Journal* remarks: "The appointment is accepted on all hands as an admirable choice, the only criticism being that it would have been better if Mr. Wills had been chosen at a date nearer the time when he was President of the Alpine Club." The new Judge was born in 1828, his father being a Birmingham solicitor. He was called to the bar in 1851, obtained 'silk' in 1872, and has held the recordership of Sheffield since 1880.

### THE MOUSSEAU INQUIRY.

A question of some interest has arisen in the course of the investigation into the charge made against Mr. Justice Mousseau, and we reproduce the ruling of the Commission in our present issue. The circumstances were these. Mr. Mousseau was Premier of the Province of Quebec at the time when tenders were received for the construction of new legislative buildings. He has since been appointed a Judge of the Superior Court of the Province. During the last session of the Provincial Legislature, Mr. Mercier, leader of the opposition in the Legislative Assembly, preferred a formal charge that Mr. Mousseau while Premier had sold the contract to Mr. Charlebois for a consideration. A committee was appointed to investigate the matter, but as the session was drawing to a close, the members of the committee were appointed a Commission to sit during the recess. The Commission proceeded with their task, and in the course of the examination of witnesses, Mr. Joly, one of the Commissioners, being overruled by a majority of the Commission as to the admissibility of a question which he desired to put to a witness, declared he would

no longer act as a Commissioner, and withdrew. Mr. Robidoux, another member of the Commission, then said that the withdrawal of Mr. Joly broke up the Commission, and he also declined to sit. The question was whether the remaining Commissioners had authority to proceed. They decided in the affirmative, and the reasons are given at length on another page. The decision seems to be almost a dictate of necessity, for otherwise it is apparent that a Commission at the last moment might be rendered futile by the withdrawal of a member who desired to prevent a report.

### THE BOUNDARY QUESTION.

The boundary question has been argued during several days before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The Hon. O. Mowat and Mr. Scoble, Q. C., addressed the Committee for Ontario, and Messrs. D. McCarthy, Q. C., and Christopher Robinson, Q. C., for the Dominion and Manitoba. At an early stage of the proceedings the award of the Canadian arbitrators was declared to be *ultra vires*, and the arguments were then directed to the question of the boundary between Ontario and Manitoba. At the conclusion of the arguments the Lord Chancellor said the Committee would make a report to Her Majesty, as usual in cases of this character.

### JUDICIAL CRITICS.

We have quoted on page 233 the observations of Mr. Justice Manisty on the changes effected by the Judicature Acts. Another criticism worthy of notice is that of Sir Laurence Peel, a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, who died July 22. The deceased judge was fond of writing to the *Times*, and just before his death he penned a letter on Law Reform, from which the following is an extract: "What with abortive trials, retrials *decies repetitæ*, motions and appeals, the Nisi Prius Court should have inscribed over it the inscription Dante gives to his Hell. Causes for defamation have largely multiplied, and people are as tenacious of their rights and wrongs as a lady of doubtful virtue. No check whatever is interposed. Let us profit by *Bell v. Lawes*,