

sist of seven judges, but for nearly a year it has consisted of only six. What is the reason for this? Are there not members of the bar of the province of Nova Scotia capable of filling the position? I know something of the bar of that province and for the present I shall speak only of Liberal members of that bar. I know there is a member of this House, the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. Laurence), a man who has had an honourable career at that bar, an able lawyer, a gentleman who occupies a high position at the bar, and, Sir, well capable of filling that office. It was expected in the month of June or July last that that hon. member would be elevated to that position; he has not been so elevated. It is understood that he would not be unwilling to accept promotion to that high office, and I am saying that not by way of reproach to that hon. gentleman because it would be a very laudable ambition on his part after having an honourable career at the bar for twenty-five or thirty years to fill the position of judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. What is the reason that no member of the Nova Scotia bar has been found worthy to be appointed to that office which has stood vacant for nearly a year? Is not the Attorney General of Nova Scotia, another gentleman of high position at the bar in that province, worthy to fill that position? For what reason has that vacancy been left unfilled? Could not any of those gentlemen have been spared from their service to the country? Could not Mr. W. E. Roscoe, of Kentville, who was elected as one of the commissioners to revise the Dominion statutes, have been appointed? I have mentioned the names of different gentlemen, who are all Liberals, only to indicate that there are men in Nova Scotia capable of filling that position, of filling it with dignity and of bringing to the discharge of that office all the learning that could be desired. There are others whose names I need not mention, but who are also worthy. And in that connection it might also be well for the Prime Minister to inform us whether the interests of the country have suffered materially during the past six or eight months by reason of the fact that we have had no Solicitor General. I do not know precisely the practical duties of that office. The Postmaster General (Mr. Lemieux) did not lose any flesh while performing the duties as far as I am aware, and I do not know whether the interests of the country have suffered. Is there not a wealth of material on the other side of the House? I will not shock the modesty of any of those gentlemen by pointing first to one and then the other and assuring the Prime Minister as I could that, not only in the opinion of those gentlemen themselves but of the House as well, they are eminently capable of discharging all the duties incumbent on the Solicitor General. Is there an embarrassment of riches?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That is it.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That is the difficulty, they are all so worthy, that the Prime Minister finds it difficult to make a choice. Let me suggest to him that he establish the office in commission, put the office of Solicitor General in commission and appoint six of these gentlemen and then we will be sure that none of them will be overworked and they can arrange salary matters as they deem best. But at all events, let not the interests of the country be longer prejudiced by the fact that we are going on in Canada from day to day, to the imminent peril of this country, without a Solicitor General. I tell my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) in all seriousness, that the fact that we have no Solicitor General in Canada to-day is in my opinion as grave a crisis as that referred to by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Aylesworth).

Various subjects have been mentioned in the speech from the Throne to which perhaps allusion might be made, but most of them will be subjects for discussion in this House when the measures to which reference is made have been introduced. There are some matters not mentioned. There is no suggestion of any attempt on the part of the government of this country to bring about cheaper means of communication and transport in this country. We in Canada occupy a remarkable position in that respect. We have six millions of people or thereabouts in this country, scattered over an enormous area, with great powers of production, and marvellous resources. My hon. friend who moved the address (Mr. Pardee), did not go too far to-day when he spoke of the wonderful possibilities of this country. But the very fact that we have some enormous resources, the very fact that we have a sparse population scattered over this vast country, makes the question of transportation in Canada a vital one, more vital to the people of Canada than to the people of any other country in the world, more vital to the people of Canada than any other question. My hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) spoke very truly, and I was deeply impressed by his remarks some three or four years ago when he stated that the problem of transportation in Canada begins in the factory or at the farm and ends with the market, at home or abroad, to which our products must be consigned. That is the problem that confronts the government and to which attention must be given. There is not one word in the speech from the Throne with regard to the equipment of our great national ports. And further than that there is not one word in the speech from the Throne with regard to any legislation looking to a better mode of dealing with disputes between capital and labour in this country.