

THE  
*Canada Law Journal*

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VOL. XXX.

JUNE 1, 1894.

No. 10.

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THE Bench of the Province of Quebec has suffered a great loss in the death, last week, of Sir Francis Godschall Johnson, Kt., Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Lower Canada. The late Chief Justice was born in England on January 1st, 1817, but was educated in France. From 1855 to 1858, he was Recorder at Fort Garry. From thence he went to Montreal, where he acted as Crown Prosecutor for the District of Montreal, and from this stepping-stone to the Bench he was appointed judge of the Superior Court, subsequently becoming its Chief Justice. Chief Justice Johnson was known as a brilliant speaker, and a master of the English and French languages. It is said that his successor will probably be Sir Napoleon Casault, of Quebec.

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It is much to be regretted that the efforts of those members of the profession who desire to centralize the business of the courts so as to keep in their own centres has met with undeserved success. Sittings of the High Court of Justice are, after January 1st next, to be held at Ottawa and London one day in each week, except during vacation, for the hearing of causes disposable by a single judge. It is a curious commentary upon political parties in this Province that this radical change should, to a large extent, have been forced upon the conservative Premier of a so-called Reform government by the persistent efforts of the radical leaders of a so-called Conservative opposition. Of course such a change suits the *vox populi*, but it is, we venture to assert, entirely opposed to the sober, matured thought of those who look only at the general good. It may not be of much importance that two judges should be inconvenienced by a weekly