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DIARY FOR FEBRUARY.

15. Sun.....*Quinquagesima Sunday.*
16. Mon.....*Maritime Court Act came into force, 1878.*
17. Tues.....*Supreme Court Session begins.*
18. Wed.....*Ash Wednesday. Wm. Osgoode, first C.J. of U. C., died 1824.*
19. Thur.....*Divisional Court Sittings, Chan. Div., H.C.J., begin.*
22. Sun.....*Quadragesima Sunday.*
27. Fri.....*Sir John Colborne, administrator, 1838.*

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 15, 1885.

HON. MR. JUSTICE SMITH, of Manitoba, unhappily did not live long to enjoy the honours of his position. But as we learn from our Manitoba cotemporary it was long enough to win the respect and admiration of the Bar, both for his legal ability and for his kind and courteous bearing. He is succeeded by Mr. A. C. Killam, Q.C., of Winnipeg. Mr. Killam is said to be a good lawyer and likely to be a useful addition to the Bench.

A RECENT suggestion of Sir Edmund Beckett, addressed by him to the *Times*, has attracted some attention recently in England. It is that a short Act should be passed for describing Acts of Parliament in future by the year A.D., instead of the year reckoned from the accession of the sovereign, which, in the case of our present Queen, necessitates adding 37 to the latter date, in order to discover the year A.D., with the additional inconvenience that Acts of Victoria are described as passed in two consecutive years, e.g., 30-31 Vict. cap. A correspondent on the subject adds:—

“It is true that ‘short titles’ have done much to obviate the necessity of numerical reference altogether, e.g., Public Health

Act, 1875, instead of 38 and 39 Vict. cap. 55; but inasmuch as a short title to an Act, though of recent years the rule is not universal and requires a special clause in the Act itself declaring that the Act may be so cited, it would obviously be more simple and conducive to memory to describe an Act numerically as Vict. 1875 cap. 55, than by the old-fashioned title of 38 and 39 Vict., etc., which was itself substituted by Lord Brougham’s Act of 1850 for the long-winded titles now happily superseded (in most cases) by short descriptive titles.”

We certainly cordially concur in these propositions. The present system has, it appears to us, nothing but custom to recommend it, and it is curious that it should have lasted so long unchallenged.

It will not, we think, be out of place for us to refer to the appointment to the Senate of Canada of James Robert Gowan, until lately the County Judge of the County of Simcoe. The appointment has been accepted by parties of all shades of politics as creditable to the Government of the day and an honour deservedly bestowed upon an old and faithful servant of our country. With no political influence to wield, with no political ambition to gratify, with no selfish purposes to serve, with means sufficient to make him thoroughly independent of any temptation to office, he is just the sort of man one likes to see in the halls of the Legislature. His recommendation for the position was the record of a long and useful public life, with abilities and experience far above the average. He will bring to the discharge of his legislative duties a calm, highly-trained judicial intellect, a mind well stored, not only with