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The *Legal News* of Montreal, in referring to the painful circumstances under which a member of the Montreal Bar recently came to an untimely end, suggests that possibly the profession is becoming overcrowded. However that may be in the Province of Quebec, it certainly is so in Ontario, as all of us know to our cost. High class education for the masses is a fine thing in theory, but it has manifest disadvantages, if (as it does) it takes young men unduly from tilling the ground from whence they came, or from the ranks of mechanical labor (avocations both honorable and independent) to a profession overcrowded to excess, and in which but few of them can expect to make more than a bare and uncertain subsistence, and which many will have to abandon, to obtain elsewhere a means of existence.

We are glad to be able to give to our readers in this our first number for 1897, a valuable account of the growth of the municipal institutions in Canada, by Mr. C. R. W. Biggar, M.A., Q.C. It would be difficult to find anyone more competent than Mr. Biggar for a task of this sort, as he has had special training during his professional career in this branch of the law. He was for several years joint City Solicitor for Toronto with the late Hon. J. B. Robinson. After several years of private practice he was recalled to the position of City Solicitor for Toronto in 1888. This he resigned in 1894, being succeeded by the present Chief Justice, Sir William Meredith. He is at present engaged in the preparation of a new edition of Harrison's Municipal Manual, which will probably be issued some time this year. As an old member of the staff of this journal, we wish him success in the undertaking, and can, we think, safely predict that the work so well