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DELAY IN SENDING UP RECORDS.

The judges of the Superior Court are sometimes made to bear the entire responsibility for the protracted delay which intervenes in some instances between the final hearing and the judgment. Frequently, however, the delay is wholly beyond their control, and is as inconvenient to them as it is to the parties. Mr. Justice Johnson referred to this subject, Nov. 30, as follows:—"I am requested, by some of my brethren on the Bench, to observe (and I do so no less on my own behalf than on theirs) that the gravest inconvenience arises in the administration of justice from the cases that have been argued not being sent up for weeks, and sometimes for months, after they have been heard. The pretext is understood to be that the stenographer's notes are not paid for by the party. The remedy would be twofold. Either the prothonotary must do his duty more strictly, and exact a sufficient deposit, as the law allows him to do, or we must have legislation to enable us to render judgment on our own view of the evidence in *enquête* and merits cases, leaving it to the party who wants to appeal to put in a copy of the evidence at his own expense. Something must evidently be done to prevent this mischief; for, as matters now stand, it is ridiculous to expect judges, who have heard cases argued six months before, to come to the work of deciding them, with recollections and impressions strong and fresh, as they ought to be, particularly if, as is often the case, the interval has loaded them with some dozen more cases, to which they have had to give their attention. I speak almost in despair on this subject, having already spoken so often in vain; but still I must speak, or adopt a course that will be very unpleasant both to myself and to suitors."

JURISDICTION OF CORONERS.

Some one who takes an interest in this question has put into circulation a printed slip containing citations of authorities, which are left to speak for themselves without any state-

ment of case. We presume they are offered in connection with a recent much to be lamented event which necessitated an inquest, and it was doubted whether the Coroner of a District other than that in which the fatal accident occurred had authority to proceed with the investigation. Among the authorities before us is an extract from the judgment of Chief Justice Denman in the case of *Reg. v. Great Western Railway*, in which he says: "The Coroner must, before he summons a jury, make some enquiry, and if, on that enquiry, he finds that the circumstances which occasioned the death happened *out of his jurisdiction*, he ought to abstain from summoning a jury, and the body, in order to an inquest, *must* be removed into the county where the circumstances occurred." This would seem to leave no doubt as to the practice in England.

Coroners were originally local persons of distinction, and possessed of landed property. Cowell's Interpreter (A.D. 1637) says: "There be certaine Coroners speciall within divers liberties, as well as these ordinary officers in every countie: as the Coroner of the verge, which is a certain compass about the King's Court. * * * And I know certaine charters belonging to colleges, and other corporations, whereby they are licensed to appoint their Coroner within their own precincts"—a very dangerous privilege, by the way. The Statute Westm. I. cap. 10, says: "Coroners shall be chosen in all counties, of the wisest and sufficientest knights;" and 14 E. III. cap. 7, enacts "that no Coroner shall be chosen unless he have land in fee sufficient in the same county." This ancient system did not long continue unchanged, for in Cowell's time the Coroner is spoken of as being then often "some inferiour gentleman that hath some smattering in the law." We have our own Statute regulating the jurisdiction of Coroners. See C.S.L.C., cap. 76, sec. 14.

LEGISLATION.

The measures promised in the Speech from the Throne are: for the winding up of insolvent Banks and incorporated companies; for the amendment of the Railway Act of 1879; for the revision and consolidation of the laws relating to Government Railways; and for the improvement, in several respects, of the Criminal Law.

The Minister of Justice appears to be disposed to carry out the Provincial legislation of last