THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL.

A HISTORY OF THE OFFICE.

The Restoration of a Portfolic that Dates Back to the Union Times, And is Old as the Constitution.

The Gazette of last Thursday published the following timely and interesting editorial on the subject of the new, or rather restored office of Solicitor-General.

It is only to be expected that these who interest it emselves in public affairs should be curious about the new federal offices now about to be filled, their special duties, the precedents for them, and their relations, actual or possible, to the Government. It is generally known that in the session of 1887 an act was passed "with the view of initiating the English system of having political heads of departments, who will commence their official career by holding certain offices which will not necessarily give them a position in the Cabinet." Until the present readjustment, consequent on the retirement from the premiership of Sir John Abbott and the accession to that place of power of Sir John Thompson. no positive attempt had been made to give effect to the provisions of the law. The department of Trade and Commerce. with Comptrollers of Customs and Revenue, now takes the place of the ministry of Customs and the ministry of Inland Revenue. This is a change which the business community that it mainly concerns will readily understand and appreciate. It is regarding the position of Solicitor-General that most questions have been asked. It may be well, therefore, to offer a few remarks on this office. which those whose memories go back to Union times will recognize as a restoration of a portfolio which was then amply provided for. Under some name or other it has a place in the Government of every constitutionally administered country. In Great Britain there were formerly nine great officers of state, or which the Lord High Steward, once the most powerful functionary in the kingdom and still by precedence first of the nine, was under the Norman and early Plustagenet kings at the head of the entire machinery, legal and judicial, of the realm.

The Lord Chancellor, who comes next, is always a member of the Cabinet, and is the official spokesman of the House or Lords as well as the highest of English Judges. In every British Munistry, though not necessarily in the Cabinet. there is also an Attorney-General, and next to him, his associate and in case of these or absence, his substitute, stands the Solicitor-General. These two are considered the chief law officers of the Crown. The Atterney-General is at the Crown. The Attorney-General is at the head of the Bar, and the position that he holds is only fitted by counsel or acknowledged ability and character. The Solicitor-General is his assistant, his de-puty, and in case of his death or retire-

ment, his successor.

Under the Union, by special arrange met.t. each section of the two-fold prov-mee had both its Attorney-General and its Solicitor-General. When the British North America act created the Dominion, the Attorney-General was represented in the list of Cabinet ministers by the Minister of Justice. There is also in each of the provinces a portfolio adoted to a minister who retains the name of Attorney General. He is officially the recognized legal adviser of the Lieutenant Governor and has charge, within his province, of all matters connected with the administration of justice. There is, indeed, no more important post in the Executive council, and again and again the Attorney-General has been provincial premier. If we go to Australia, or New Zealand, or to the Cape of Good Hope, we will find the same important functionary, and not intrequently he is at the head of the government. Even in the Crown colonies, such as Hong-Kong and Natal, this officer is one of the Executive council. Sometimes, as in New South Wales, he is called, as in our federal cabinet. Minister of Justice, while, again, in Ceylon we meet him under the designation of Queen's Advocate. In the German Empire as well as the French Republic there is a Ministry of Justice. So also in either section of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. In the United States, the equivalent officer bears the alternative name of Attorney General. A Solicitor General was creat-

ed by act of Congress in 1870, but he is

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(In the above Sketch Six Faces are to be Found.)

(In the above Sketch Six Faces are to be Found.)

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not a member of the Cabinet. Besides the English Solicitor-General there ar in the United Kingdom officers for Sectional and Ireland who bear the same designation. There are also in Scotlant a Lord Justice-General, a Lord Advocatand a Lord Justice-Clerk, and in Ireland a Lord Chancellor and an Attorney-Ge

It is evident, therefore, that for the new office in the Dominion's Department of Justice, which is to be so well filled by the able member for Montreal Centre. there is no lack in precedent both in the past and in the present. The precedent that most concerns us is, or course, that of the United Kingdom and of the empire, and we have seen that both in the metropolis and in the regime which, in Canada, immediately preceded that under which we are now living, the office of Soheitor-General was always closely assy ciated with that of Attorney-General, 10 may be recalled that the Quebec act of ; 1774 was virtually based on the equinons i of Attorney-General Thurly weart swards Lord Thurlow) and Solienter-General Wedderburn, afterwards Earl of Rosslyn: while in Canada some of the most eminent of our statesmen have at some stage of their careers tilled one or other of these important positions.

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IRISH NEWS.

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The Rev. James Keating, a curate of Gorey, has been appointed parish priest of Davidstown.

A writ against Mr. William O'Brien, M. P., (ie the Bolton damages and costs) has been lodged with the sheriff of Dublin, for the purpose of being executed. It is for a sum of over \$4,000.

Mr. Richard Hassard, a solicitor of Waterford, died en Nov. 7, after about nine days' illuess, from typhoid fever. Mr. Hassard was a central figure in athletic circles about lifteen years ago. How a bicycle champion of Ire and in 1877 and 1879, and he rowed for the Dublin University Boat Carb in the successful four at Henley.

At the Presentation Convent, Galway, recently, the two Misses Cestello, daughters of M. J. Cestello, of Graigue Lodge, Tham, whose pames in religion are Sister Mary Vincent and Sister Mary Magdalon respectively, received the black well. Archbishop M. Evrily officiated and was assisted by Fathers McHugh of the Preshytery, and Greely of \$t. darlath's College.

An exciting spense was witnessed at the eviction of a caretaker named Tunothy Murphy, near Kartuck, on Nov. 11. He had strengly barrie ided the doors and windows of his residence. The bailiffs having feiled to force the doors attacked the windows, where they received showers of boiling water, burning coals, bottles, stones, and red bot froms. The boilitis narrowly escaped being scarched. After a protracted strugger possession was taken.

A sections accident occurred at Meenies, between Skibbergen and Drimoleague recently. Daniel Kelly, nineteen years of age, was reading a newspaper with the fight of a small hand lump. when the paper ignited. In jumping up to save himself he spided the oil, which that he was tearfully burned from the knees up to and on the chest. Drs. Crowley and Lewis were summoned and they found that Kelly had sustained serious and dangerous injuries.

Sir Thomas Grattan Esmonde visited Maharees, in West Kerry, recently for the purpose of making a personal examination of the selected site for the pro-posed fishery pier at that place. Sir Thomas declared that act only would be use every exertion to have the erection of the pier proceeded with immediately, but further that he intended to leave no stone unturned to induce the Government to grand a loan sufficient to purchase substantial boats for the fishermen. Atterwards be visited the National School. and expressed his desight at the largeness of the attendance of published the order and neatness observable.

An exquisitely wrought Codic cross of Swiffian murble is to be created at Neweastle over the greye of the 46 v. Law-ence Cordon, of Claure i. The cross is five test in relight, and rests on a finely moribed block of native lines; sie, Onthe front of the redestries the inscription: The mean ry of the Rey, Lawrence Con-don, C. C., St. Mary's, Centact, who died April 16, 1802, in the body first year of his age and the eighteenth of his sacred ministry. He was actions in the dis-charge of he duties, regetful of himself in his solicitude for the poor and op-pressed, and a patriot of the sounds st judgment. May be rest in peace." the reverse of fac cross use the words on a Collie screb: "Try was be done." At the right hand side as an incription to the memory of the good prosts mother, Mrs. Bridget Condon of Coolindasoon, who died March 27, 1886. This beautiful memorial will be surrounded by a suitable from racing recting on fifty tool. of corbels.

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