

## The Legal News.

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The case of *Bunch v. Great Western Railway Co.* (9 Leg. News, 136, 275, 283; 17 Q. B. Div. 215;) has been carried to the House of Lords, and there the judgment of the Court of Appeal has been affirmed, Lord Bramwell dissenting. The facts were that a woman arrived at a station on the Great Western Railway forty minutes before the time at which the train by which she intended to travel was to start. The train was not at that time drawn up in the station. She had with her a bag and two other articles of luggage, which were delivered to a porter to take into the station. She saw the other two articles labelled, and told the porter that she wished to have the bag in the carriage with her, and asked if it would be safe if left with him. He replied that it would be. There were notices in the station that porters had orders not to take charge of luggage, and that the company would not be liable for luggage taken into the carriages. The bag was lost through the negligence of the porter. The case was tried in the Marylebone County Court, where judgment was given in favor of the plaintiffs for £18. On appeal to the Divisional Court, Justices Day and Smith differed, the former being of opinion that the company were not responsible, while Mr. Justice Smith considered that there was evidence to support the finding of the County Court judge that the porter was holding the bag on behalf of the company. Smith, J., as junior judge, withdrew his judgment, and judgment was entered for the company, with leave to the plaintiffs to appeal. The Court of Appeal reversed the judgment of the Divisional Court, Lopes, L.J., dissenting, and restored the judgment of the County Court judge. This decision has now been affirmed by the House of Lords, Lord Bramwell dissenting.

It is very much to be regretted if the magnificent site of the Montreal Court House has to be abandoned in favour of one much less desirable. The present building is no doubt inadequate and defective, but we are not in-

clined to believe that architectural skill is so limited that it is impossible to improve the accommodation, and overcome most of the defects complained of. Considerable alterations and repairs have been in progress for more than a year past. Two elevators are now being put in. To what end are these costly improvements being made if the building is to be abandoned?

Comment is now being made upon the fact that Chief Justice Waite died poor, and that his family are not adequately provided for. The rewards of the bench are so insignificant that it could not well be otherwise. The Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court receives about the same salary that is paid to some of the subordinate officers of the Bank of Montreal in this city. Notwithstanding popular impressions as to the largeness of lawyers' fees, the same may be said of the incomes of eminent and hardworking members of the bar. Within a few years we have lost an unusual number of our prominent men. We may instance Andrew Robertson, Edward Carter, Devlin, Doutre, Kerr, Leblanc, and Judges Day, Ramsay, Torrance, and Mackay. All these, and others whose names will occur to our readers, died comparatively poor after many years of exhausting labour.

The late Minister of the Interior, the Hon Thomas White, whose death has been so universally and sincerely mourned, is one of the few public men in Canada who have attained great distinction without being members of the bar. The legal profession, however, may claim him in a measure, as he followed a course of legal study in Ontario, but was diverted from his intention of entering upon practice by his first and stronger love for the press. There can be no doubt that he would have achieved distinction at the bar, but the loss to the legal profession has been amply compensated by the gain to the press and to the public life of Canada. In reference to journalism more particularly, it is difficult to overestimate the personal influence which Mr. White exerted during a period extending over thirty years. The example of his honourable independence, cheerful and untiring industry,