

consideration. In fact, the judges at present have either to dispose hurriedly of cases at the conclusion of the arguments, or else to reserve judgment until a future time which never seems to come. Litigants have a right to proper time being given for the due consideration of their cases, and to as prompt a disposal as is consistent therewith. This at present is impossible. We need not allude to the annoyance and inconvenience to counsel, and other difficulties of minor importance, nor to the unfairness of overworking the existing judges, but we do insist that the public interests should be attended to, and the Government of the Dominion must bear the blame for any neglect.

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A journal devoted to the interests of the legal profession, if we understand its mission aright, should not be silent whenever circumstances arise in connection with the administration of justice and the welfare of the profession which call for comment or criticism. Such comment never is a pleasant duty, and certainly is not, either in the matter we have already referred to, or in regard to another subject, which we approach with even more hesitation, but which, in the discharge of the duty which seems to be laid upon us, cannot be passed over. It need scarcely be stated that a thoroughly competent, vigorous Bench, as well as an independent Bar, true to their best traditions, are a blessing to any country and necessary to its best interests. We have in Canada reason to congratulate ourselves in reference to both these matters, and it should be the aim of all to see that this state of things shall continue.

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The matter we have to refer to is a frequent subject of conversation amongst the members of the profession, and has given rise to grave dissatisfaction. We allude to the unfortunate physical infirmity of one of the High Court judges in the Province of Ontario. An infirmity or defect which might in private life be of little moment, becomes a serious evil in one entrusted with the important and responsible duties of a judge. We all regret that Mr. Justice Robertson, so much respected and of a most kindly disposition, should be unable fully to discharge his duties owing to a deficiency in his sense of hearing. This must, of course, more or less impair his usefulness, for of necessity he cannot be sure of knowing all the facts of the case, and cannot always grasp the arguments of counsel. An undue share of work is thrown on other judges, and