

The Legal News.

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In designing a new Court-house, we remarked last week, provision should be made for the wants of a city of at least one million inhabitants. The population of Montreal has doubled twice within the recollection of many who are still in practice, and there is no reason to suppose that it will not double twice again during the time of many who are now commencing their career. The want of foresight in this respect is already bewailed in London. "Thanks to the official wisdom (says the *Law Times*) which, in designing the Law Courts, provided ten courts for the accommodation of fifteen, or, allowing one for chambers, fourteen common law judges, the full strength of the Bench can only be utilized by forming four divisional courts each of two judges, or three courts, one of which must consist of three judges. Of late years, the assizes have become so numerous and so lengthy that the full extent of the inconvenience has not been felt. If, however, the late sittings had lasted another week, we believe work could hardly have been found for more than two divisional courts, in which case, supposing eight *visi prius* courts formed, two judges could have been added to the ranks of the unemployed. Such a state of things, when considered in conjunction with the congested state of the cause list, becomes nothing short of a public scandal. Before an additional Chancery judge is appointed, it is perhaps worth while to inquire where his lordship is to sit when he is appointed. At present there are five Chancery judges, besides the Lord Chancellor, and five courts available for them. The appointment of a sixth will therefore raise in equity the same bewildering problem already presented at common law, and, if possible, in a more difficult form, for there is no possibility in chancery of cutting the knot by smuggling three judges into one court to do the work of two. That in the progress of time our judicial system might expand, or that the legal business of the country might

ever increase in bulk, are evidently among the many ideas which did not suggest themselves to the designers of the law courts."

A French journal puts the following query: "Il y a en France dix mille six cent quatre-vingt-quatorze avocats. Il n'y en a pas plus d'un millier qui vivent de leur profession. Trois cents sont députés ou sénateurs. Alors, qu'est-ce qui fait vivre tous les autres." The fees of advocacy must be very small in France if they suffice only to support one thousand persons, that is to say, one advocate to a community of about forty thousand. The record of the English bar, we imagine, is very far ahead of this.

The Medico-Legal Society of New York, says the *Sanitary Record*, appointed a committee to report on the best method of executing criminals. It is suggested that hanging should be abolished, as cruel and contrary to the public sense of civilization. As a substitute for the present death penalty they recommend (a) death by the electric current, or (b) death by hypodermatic or other injection of poison; or (c) death by carbonic oxide gas injected into a small room in each jail; giving preference to the first. Medical opinion in England, however, does not support the view that hanging can be successfully replaced by a less cruel method of execution. See 10 Leg. News, 393.

Chief Justice Galt, of Ontario, upon whom the honour of knighthood has been conferred, was born at London, Eng., August 12, 1815. His father, John Galt, was a well known literary man, the author of "Laurie Todd" and other works. When the present Chief Justice was about eighteen years old, the family came to Canada and settled in Toronto. After some years had been spent in commercial pursuits, Thomas entered upon the study of the law in the office of the late Chief Justice Draper; was called to the bar in 1845, and made Q.C. in 1858. In 1869 he was appointed a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. Last year he was elevated to the office of Chief Justice of the same Court.

We have received a copy of a pamphlet, by