

Deed of Composition.

Re James Perry, Sorel.—Application for confirmation, Sorel, June 27.

Separation as to Property.

Marie Olympe Daoust vs. Louis Depocas, trader, Salaberry de Valleyfield, May 21.

Marie Raymond vs. Gilbert Magnan, trader, Sorel, May 26.

Commission.

F. L. Béique, Q.C., and Jacques Malouin, Q.C., appointed commissioners to conduct an inquiry into alleged bribery of members of Quebec legislature with \$10,000 obtained from J. P. Whelan.

GENERAL NOTES.

THE CRIMES ACT.—A parliamentary return was issued on May 21, containing the names of all persons proceeded against under the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, from November 30, 1898, to March 31 last. The total number of persons (1,207) is made up of 196 in Leinster, 628 in Munster, 142 in Ulster, and 241 in Connaught. Charges were withdrawn in 102 cases, 327 persons were acquitted, and 769 convicted, while nine cases were pending. There were 233 appeals lodged; the sentence was increased in one case, confirmed in 110 cases, reduced in fifty-five, reversed in seventeen, and forty-two were pending. Of the charges, 174 were for criminal conspiracy, 198 intimidation, 160 riot, 321 unlawful assembly, 139 taking forcible possession, 187 assault on or resistance to sheriff, constable, bailiff, etc., nineteen taking part in meeting of suppressed branch of National League, seven inciting to criminal conspiracy, and two publishing proceedings of suppressed branch of National League.

CHANGES IN PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS.—The purely intellectual character of the profession, as distinguished from the sensational or muscular, becomes more marked every day. Now, more than heretofore, its prizes are won by those who ceaselessly read and think. A few years ago a great advocate was the great lawyer. He was ruler of the twelve-King in slander, breach of promise, and murder. Court rooms were crowded when he arose to speak; bar rooms were stifled when he went to drink. The eye of admiration and finger of notoriety followed him on the street. Now mark the change; agriculture is no more the chief employment. Its quiet ways are succeeded by the stunning roar of manufacture and trade. . . . Capital and labor have each become organized, and vast corporations have been created to gain, save and insure property. Money, not philanthropy, is the aim of these great institutions. They have no use for a lawyer who can only guess, talk or fight. The lawyer who can serve them does it by thinking and writing. He is wanted to keep them out of trouble, as adviser, not as pleader; in the office, not in the court room. I was surprised a few years ago to hear a distinguished lawyer say he had not argued a case in court for years, yet he was in practice all the time, and had won a million at the bar.—*Address of Mr. Brooks before the Ohio State Bar Association.*

LAWYER'S DRESS.—In an address on the "Ethics of the Law," delivered before the Florida Bar Association, Mr. Edward Badger discussed the lawyer's dress as follows:—"An additional virtue in a lawyer is a due regard for dress and appearance. They are not noted, as a rule, for their tendency to dudgeism, but quite the contrary, and a well-dressed lawyer is the exception to the rule. 'Decency of exterior evinces a proper regard for the opinion of others, and tends to enlarge the lawyer's influence. It is calculated to recommend him to the good will of those, by no means a contemptible number, who judge from externals.' The sight of a well-dressed man is at all times a pleasing one, and there is no reason why a lawyer may not be dressed as well as others. It costs no more to be decent than the contrary, and the advantages gained are so extensive that it is a wonder so sensible a class of men as lawyers certainly are, should not appreciate the benefits derived therefrom, and govern themselves accordingly. It is certainly not only a good but a very polite thing to be well dressed, as it shows a flattering deference to the opinions of society. . . . The conduct of an attorney in court should be marked by the distinctive features of that gentleman in society. He should observe a proper decorum; deferential, though not servile, to the judge, suave and amiable to his brothers and polite to all. Abruptness or roughness of any kind is as much out of place in the court room as in the parlor. The bull is in his proper place in the pasture, but we exclude him from the garden or the china shop. Hoisting the feet upon the tables, sitting astraddle of the chairs, lolling back negligently upon the benches, smoking, chewing, whittling, talking, whispering or any of the many rude and careless acts which may be witnessed in a court ruled over by an impolite judge, should be avoided as unrefined and vulgar; not only unbecoming a lawyer and gentleman, but the commonest member of the most ordinary society."

DIVORCES IN FRANCE.—The divorce law passed in France in 1884 seems to be operating with terrible effect. In 1884 there were 3,657 divorces; in 1885, 4,123; in 1886, 4,007 in 1887, 5,797. But the most astounding statement made is that in the department of the Seine—i.e., Paris and its neighborhood—there are no fewer than 62.8 divorces to every thousand marriages, or that considerably more than one in twenty marriages (say one in sixteen) ends in a divorce. On the other hand, in the Finistere and the Cotes du Nord not much more than one in a thousand marriages ends in a divorce—a curious testimony this to the different morale of Parisian and provincial life in France.—*The Spectator.*

SOLICITORS GOING TO THE BAR.—Solicitors appear to appreciate the new rule admitting them to the bar, after giving twelve months' notice and passing the examination. No less than fourteen have passed from the one branch to the other. This, says the *Law Times*, is fusion of the right order, although juniors in practice complain that solicitors who have been some time in the profession enter the bar with undue advantages. This may be so, but it can not be helped. It will be interesting to see whether this sort of competition drives away the youth from the Universities.