

to exist or is doubtful, then possibly legislation can be procured to set the matter at rest. There is certainly ample room for argument against the fact of there being jurisdiction. But to permit the question to remain open is to confirm the present feeling of unrest and apprehension, and may entail great misery and loss. The course that the Chief Justice has advised, viz., having the matter discussed pro and con in full Court, is now the proper thing to do, and this doubtless will shortly be done.

We were sorry to see an item which appeared in reference to this matter in an Ottawa paper, stating that "the Catholic Church is believed to be behind the Chief Justice." Very happily little attention is paid nowadays to newspaper items in the average daily papers. They are very frequently incorrect, and being too often written by irresponsible and ignorant persons, and intended to appeal to the prejudices and passions of the masses, who desire to be tickled by something sensational (whether true or false is immaterial), should really carry no weight. Such statements as the above, however, are calculated to do harm, in that they tend to break down that reverence for law and order so necessary for the welfare of any community. The honor of the Chief Justice of British Columbia, of course, needs no defence against such silly slanders. The fact that the objection to the jurisdiction was taken by his eminent predecessor, would be a sufficient vindication, if any were needed.

CAUSERIE.

"If I chance to talk a little while forgive me."
 — *Henry VIII.*, Act I, Scene 4.

We often hear voluntary and extra judicial oaths, both loud and deep, uttered by weary counsel who have to wade through the tedious judgments which one of our Canadian Courts of Appeal is in the habit of rendering. That our American brethren are not exempt from this species of martyrdom is attested by the case of *Jacksonville, etc., R. Co. v. Peninsular, etc., Land Co.*, decided by the Supreme Court of