## The Legal Hews.

Vol. VI. DECEMBER 29, 1883. No. 52.

#### THE COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH AND ITS SITTINGS—HOW TO TURN THEM TO ACCOUNT.

The Bench and the Bar will not gain much by amateur suggestions. The amicus curize is a personage of very doubtful utility. In his wisdom he tells us that if pleaders talked less, if judges interrupted less, and lawyers and judges did not wrangle, cases would be more promptly heard. As a matter of fact no other portion of the community, brought into such sharp conflict of opinion, in matters of the deepest interest, show so much reserve as judges and lawyers. If they exhibited as much disregard for one another's feelings as the contending parties in the House of Commons, or the shareholders at a bank-meeting when there is no dividend, or even as co-religionists in the vestry-room, Courts of Justice would become more entertaining than the "ring" or a bull-fight.

It requires experience, careful study and a frank admission of our short comings to get on to the line of practical improvement.

In this Province we begin with the great advantage of having the best system of law in the world, and the schools, established within the last thirty-five years, have done much to develop legal knowledge: but generally we lack training, and our system of procedure is simply detestable. It is neither French nor English, but a hideous jumble of both.

Want of training is very manifest in pleading both written and oral. When it is said a pleader speaks too long, it is only another way of saying he pleads badly. No one intends to weary his audience, for the hearer has always some measure of protection—he can cease to listen. On the other hand it is manifest that an argument to the point, and systematically arranged, is of immense use, provided the judge is prepared to listen and to understand it, and if he is not to throw the case into a bag after the hearing, and to leave it there till all that has been said is forgotten. The union of the two branches of the profession is a great difficulty in the way of good pleading, and renders special training in this important matter doubly needful. Either from economy, or from the idea that he knows more of the case than he can communicate to counsel, or from vanity, the attorney invariably pleads his own case, whether he be eloquent or not, or whether he hesitates or stutters, or whether his voice is melodious or monotonous. or whether he has any aptitude for the clear exposition of a principle or for the striking grouping of facts or not. All these deficiencies, as well as every act that depends mainly on method and good taste for its efficient performance, can be to a great extent affected by education. Therefore it is to the schools we must look for a remedy in these particulars.

The legislature must aid us in procedure. The first and greatest difficulty is the taking of evidence. Theoretical writers constantly tell us that the written evidence should be as nearly in the words of the witness as possible, and doubtless, in the abstract, the rule is true. But when in practice, this is attempted to be carried out, a mass of rubbish is collected, in the midst of which the evidence is as likely to be lost as the traditional needle in the bottle of hay.

The cure for loose and useless accumulation of evidence is to be found firstly, in scientific pleading. Unfortunately that unrefined critic "public opinion" is vehemently opposed in the present day to intellectual distinctions, he finds them difficult and wearisome, all of which we readily admit; but so are the great problems of mathematics, and so also it is difficult and very wearisome to dig. The cure is to be found secondly in keeping the whole case, from the beginning to the end, under judicial control. One of the schemes devised for this is to have a juge d'instruction. The judge of first instance should be the juge d'instruction, and his notes, and not the rambling story of the witness, should be the evidence in the case. The objection is, that the judges have not time. There is nothing in this; evidence can be more easily taken by a judge without a jury than with one. The real impediment is the prejudice of old attorney. who likes to nurse his case, and, by adjournments, to have an opportunity of plastering up holes. These plasterings are very generally untrustworthy evidence, or they are unsuccessful.

The record being built up on logical principles, and confined to legitimate bulk is easily managed. Make-weight arguments are excluded or easily exposed, and sentimentalities, often dignified by the name of equity, become transparently ridiculous.

In procedure we have been going backwards lately. Let me hope progressive people will not be too much shocked, when the introduction of stenography is indicated as the retrograde step. To stop the cry of indignation, by which my observation may be overwhelmed, let me say at once, that it is the application to law of stenography, while it is a hidden art to almost the whole world, to which I object. When, after transcription, the so-called testimony is submitted to the court, it is not sworn testimony of what took place, but the substituted oath of the stenographer of what one or many witnesses have said. It is in reality hearsay evidence, and no more.

The next point in which our practice is faulty is in the making of factums. The parties should be constrained to make one case, from which all repetitions should be excluded, and into which no argument should be admitted. It should consist of a faithful statement of the pleadings, then of the judgment or judgments appealed from, then of the propositions of law succinctly stated, also the summing up of the evidence, and then the evidence itself.

The last improvement is in the formation of the court, and it is the most important. A Court of Appeal should never consist of more than three judges. They will do more work, and do it better, and more easily for themselves, than a greater number. The moment the number of three is exceeded, the faults of the committee begin to appear. It is said that two heads are better than one, granted; but no proverbial philosopher ever said that five were better than three. It is so well known that good counsel is not to be obtained from numbers, it is hardly necessary to analyse the causes of the fact. In general terms, however, it may be said, that truth is proclaimed by the many, but it is discovered by the few. Proverbially it lies at the bottom of a well, it does not float like cream on a milk-pan.

Simpleand easy as are the alterations proposed, the writer has no ardent hope of seeing them speedily brought about. Selfishness, jealousy and prejudice will combine to prevent even their candid discussion; but with the most perfect faith that no true word is ever thrown away, and in the belief that there are some truths in these papers, I close my comments for the present, on "the Court of Queen's Bench and its sittings." R.

#### OBLIGATIONS OF A TRUSTEE. .

When the Supreme Court surprised our legal world by its judgment in Miller & Coleman, we were told that the decision was in conformity with English law. We received this assurance with some Lesitation, for although we are supposed to be governed, in civil matters, chiefly by the laws of France, and therefore we do not make a special study of English law, yet it was difficult for us, in our ignorance to believe, that the most practical of peoples could possibly have laid down principles leading to absurd results. The following report of a case recently decided in England, establishes, on the very highest authority, that the law there regulating the obligations of a trustee as to diligence is precisely the same as it is in the Province of Quebec :--- "In the House of Lords on Monday, the Lord Chancellor, and Lords Blackburn, Watson, and Fitzgerald gave judgment in the appeal of Spaight et al v. Gaunt. Mr. Gaunt, trustee under the will of A. Bradford, manufacturer, had entrusted £15.275 to a stockbroker, named Cooke, to invest. Cooke, however, appropriated the money and absconded. His estate only yielded 6d in the pound. In an action brought against the trustee, Vice-Chancellor Bacon ordered him to make good the sum lost and to pay costs. This judgment was however set aside, in the Court of Appeal. The late Sir George Jessel, in the course of his judgment, said that a trustee ought to conduct the business of his trust in the same manner as an ordinary and prudent man would conduct his own business; but beyond that there was no liability or obligation upon him. It was not reasonable to make a trustee, who was not paid for his services, adopt further and better precautions than an ordinary and prudent man of business would adopt, and if it were otherwise no one would be a trustee. In consequence of this judgment the appellants appealed to their lordships, and sought to make the respondent liable for a breach of trust. Their lordships, however, affirmed the judgment of the Court of Appeal, and dismissed the present appeal with costs."

#### TRADE MARK.

It appears by the following notice of a recent case that a man may use his own name so as to be a fraudulent appropriation of the trade mark of another firm :--- " Mr. Justice Chitty gave judgment on Wednesday in an action of Clayton v. Bell, which was brought by the present proprietor of the business of Day and Martin, blacking manufacturers, for an injunction to restrain two men named Enoch Day and Thomas Martin from using the words "Day & Martin" on labels for bottles or packages of blacking. Day was an assistant to an ironmonger in Southsea, and Martin the keeper of a small shop at Southsea, for the sale of sweets and ginger beer. Mr. Justice Chitty said he was satisfied that the defendants intended fraudulently to appropriate the name of the plaintiff's firm for the purpose of obtaining a sale of blacking made by the defendants, and he granted the injunction with costs."

#### A CHEQUE CASE.

The Lord Chancellor and Lords Blackburn, Watson, and Fitzgerald had before them in the House of Lords recently the case of John McLean v. The Clydesdale Banking Company. It was an appeal from a decision of the Court of Session in Scotland, affirming two orders of the Sheriff's Court which were in favor of the respondents. The question was whether the appellant was entitled to countermand payment of a cheque after it had been endorsed to a third party for value. It appeared that a person named Cotton kept an account with the Clydesdale Bank in Glasgow, and on the 14th of January, 1882, the sum at his debit amounted to £1,970. In the course of the day sums amounting to £1,941 were paid in, including a cheque for £265 2s. 6d., drawn by John This cheque was, McLean in favor of Cotton. to the extent of £250, an accommodation bill given by the appellant to Cotton. When the cheque was presented to the Bank of Scotland, the bank refused to honour it in consequence of instructions received from the appellant.

The appellant did not dispute his liability on the cheque to the extent of £15 2s. 6d., being the amount for which he received value, but he denied any liability for the remaining £250. The respondents contended that the appellant was not entitled to stop payment of the cheque after it was endorsed to them for value. Their lordships, without calling on the counsel for the respondents, gave judgment, dismissing the appeal with costs. In their lordships' view there could be no doubt that cheques under the existing laws of England and Scotland were negotiable, and the property in them would be passed by endorsement for value. In this case the payee had endorsed the cheque over to the bank, and the consequence was the respondents stood now in the position of owners of the cheque and entitled to sue upon it."

#### THE LAW'S DELAY.

There is so much clatter over delays in the administration of justice, that the minds of people receive a very distorted impression of the facts. It is not uncommon to hear people speak as if a determined fight in the courts meant at least ten years' litigation, and timid persons are no doubt often frightened into compromise or abandonment of their lawful rights rather than run the risk of having a suit hanging like a mill-stone round their necks. In particular the Court of Appeal of late has been held up as a bugbear. Celerity, of course, is desirable, so long as the work is well done. But let us take an illustration of the actual delay. The case of Arpin & Robillard was decided by the Superior Court, 9th January, 1883; the appeal from that judgment was heard in its turn on the roll on the 15th December, 1883, and was decided 21st December, 1883. This does not indicate extraordinary delay. Doubtiess, it may be said with truth that the same result could have been attained within two months instead of twelve, if the roll had been clear: but our impression is that in the olden time. when there were not more than twenty-five or thirty cases on the roll, the same delay often occurred between the judgment of the the first Court and that of the Court of Of course, if the lawyer for the Appeal. appellant takes six or eight months to prepare his factum, the case will not get its proper

place on the roll, but he suffers from his own want of diligence and not from the block of business. As to the lower Courts, business has never been more promptly dispatched. A writer signing "M." (p. 400), in whose initial and style, it is not difficult to recognize a learned Judge who recently retired from the Superior Court, has shown how expeditiously the work of the Court of Review is performed. In the Court of first instance cases are tried and disposed of with a celerity never known before. In fact, the more work both bench and bar have to do, the less disposition is there to linger over cases.

#### NOTES OF CASES.

#### COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.

QUEBEC, December 4, 1883.

DORION, C.J., MONK, RAMSAY, TESSIER & BABY, JJ.

ROCHETTE, Appellant, & OUELLET, Respondent.

Security in Appeal-Hypothecary Action.

- 1. Where the defendant in a hypothecary action appeals, the sufficiency of the sureties, or the amount to be deposited as security, is not to be calculated on the value of the real estate, or on the amount to which the defendant may be condemned should he fail to délaisser. Nevertheless the bond should be in the terms of Art. 1124 C. C. P., and the Prothonotary ought not to limit its terms to the payment of costs.
- 2. When the defendant makes a deposit instead o/ giving security, which the Prothonotary has declared should be for the payment of costs only, a motion to set aside the deposit as insufficient, will be rejected, if it appears to the Court that the deposit is sufficient to cover any condemnation in money, whether for costs or otherwise, to which the defendant is liable to be condemned, and the Prothonotary's order will be amended.

Motion to reject the appeal owing to insufficiency of the security. The action was hypothecary. The prothonotary, before whom the "Considérant que le cautionnement pour appeler d'un jugement de la Cour Supérieure, doit être donné dans les termes de l'article 1124, du Code de Procédure Civile, et que dans l'espèce le Protonotaire n'avait pas le droit de restreindre le cautionnement et d'ordonner qu'il ne serait donné que pour les frais seulement;

"Mais considérant que pour déterminer la solvabilité des cautions ou leur suffisance, le juge ou le protonotaire recevant le cautionnement doit fixer une somme pour laquelle les cautions doivent justifier de leur solvabilité, et que d'après la loi et la pratique constante de cette cour, cette somme doit égaler les condamnations en argent ou en choses mobilières appréciables en argent auxquels la partie appelante peut être condamnée;

"Et considérant que lorsque la partie appelante, au lieu de donner un cautionnement, offre de déposer une somme de deniers pour tenir lieu de tel cautionnement, l'appréciation de la somme à être déposée doit être basée sur la même règle;

" Et considérant que sur une action hypothécaire dont l'objet est le délaissement d'un immeuble, la suffisance des cautions, ou du dépôt qui doit être fait au lieu de cautionnement, ne doit pas être estimé en y comprenant la valeur de l'immeuble dont le délaissement est demandé ou de la somme à être payée dans le cas où le défendeur ne délaisserait pas, mais seulement des condamnations en argent auxquelles le défendeur peut être condamné;

"Et considérant que l'appelant défendeur en Cour de première instance, a choisi de faire un dépôt de \$350 au lieu de donner un cautionnement;

"Et considérant que cette somme est suffisante pour rencontrer les condamnations en argent auxquelles l'appelant peut être condamné en cette cause;

"La Cour mettant de côté l'ordre donné par le protonotaire, déclare néanmoins que le dépôt fait par l'appelant est suffisant pour rencontrer les condamnations qui pourront être prononcées contre lui, et renvoie la motion de l'Intimé, mais sans frais."

Motion rejected.

#### COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.

QUEBEC, December 7, 1883.

DORION, C. J., MONK, RAMSAY, TESSIER, BABY, JJ.

- BELANGER (deft. below), Appellant, and BAXTER (plff. below), Respondent.
- Promissory note obtained from the maker by fraud— Action by endorsee (before maturity) cognizant of the fraud.
- Where the transfer of a note by indorsement is made before it becomes due, but the evidence shows that the note was obtained from the maker by fraud and that the holder was aware of the fraud, the case does not come within the general rule laid down in C. C. 2287, and the onus of showing that he is in good faith falls upon the holder.

RAMSAY, J. This is an action on a promissory note dated 3rd January, 1882, and payable twelve months after date. The plea is that the defendant being a person of little education, had signed this note believing he was signing an agreement by which he was to become the agent of C. B. Mahan & Co. for the sale of agricultural instruments. The transaction is clearly one of those swindling concerns of which we have seen so many got up to dupe unsuspecting country people. It is evident that this note would have been valueless in the hands of Mahan & Co., but it was transferred to the respondent before it was due-sometime, it appears, in December, 1882. The only question seems to be whether the respondent is a bona fide holder. It is argued that Walters was, and that he holds from Walters. But the fact is not so. Walters only held the note as collateral security-he did not discount it "out and out" as he said. He held it with a number of other notes amounting to a very large sum of money, and he was disinterested in the whole for \$6000, less than half the face value of the notes. A note obtained by a gross fraud of this kind, and out of the ordinary course of business, is already open to suspicion, and the onus of showing that the plaintiff is a holder in good faith and for value readily falls upon him. This was formally decided in England, Fitch & Jones, 5 E. & B. 245; it was also decided here before the code in a case of Withall & Ruston et al., 7 I., C. R., p. 399. It is, however, contended that art. 2287 C.C. has laid down a new rule on the point. This Court has

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been unable to adopt this view. There is nothing to indicate any intention on the part of the legislature to change the existing law. Art. 2287 represents Article 9 of the 7th Report of the Commissioners, and on it (Art. 9) they make this remark :---

"The rule declared in Article 9, as to the "right to transfer a bill by endorsement after "it is due and the effect of such endorsement, admits of no difficulty with us at the present "day; it has been the constant usage derived "from that of England, and is recognized in "a number of cases, one of which is reported and is cited under the article."

The case referred to is that of Wood et al., § Shaw, 3 L. C. J., p. 175, which does not support the pretention of the respondent. The sense of the article is this, the title of the holder is perfect on the face of it, but the article does not say that the title continues to be perfect when the evidence gives rise to the presumption that the holder is in fraud, and has not given value. We have therefore maintained the old principle in two cases, one of *Robinson § Calcott*, reviewed in 2 *Thémis* 331, the other that of *Morin § Grenier*, decided in Montreal, on the 15th of September, 1877.

As to the facts of this case, it appears that Baxter held the note on an order from Mahan, who fled the country about the beginning of November, and with whom Baxter says he had had no communication since his flight; but he admits that he was aware of the rumours as to these notes having been obtained fraudulently at the time of Mahan's flight, and it appears he only produced his order in December, weeks after Mahan had disappeared. Then, when we come to examine the condition on which the notes were given up by Walters, we find that it was upon payment of Mahan's indebtedness. The transaction, then, has all the outward appearance of a withdrawal of the notes by Mahan's agent, and Baxter has not attempted to show that he withdrew these notes with his own money. We are therefore of the opinion that the judgment in this case must be reversed with costs of both Courts.

The judgment of the Court is as follows :---

"The Court having heard, etc., on the appeal from the judgment of the Superior Court sitting at the city of Quebec, in the Province of Quebec, in a suit in which James Baxter was plaintiff and Victor Bélanger was defendant, to wit the judgment rendered on the 9th day of July, 1883, and having deliberated;

"Considering that the note which formed the basis of the said action, to wit, a note purporting to be drawn at Lotbinière on the 3rd January, 1883, payable 12 months after date to the order of C. B Mahan & Co., and signed by the said defendant now appellant, was obtained from the said appellant by the said Mahan & Co. by misrepresentation and fraud;

"Considering that it appears that the holder of the said note, to wit, the said James Baxter, was aware of the said fraud, and that he has failed to prove that he gave value for the said note;

"Considering further that it appears that the said plaintiff got possession of the said note, after the departure of the said Mahan from Montreal, from one Walters, who held the said note with others of a similar kind, as collateral security for advances to Mahan, on the order of Mahan and on the payment of what was due by Mahan to Walters;

"And considering that this transaction gives rise to the presumption that Baxter got these notes as agent of Mahan, and that he 'holds them for Mahan, which presumption is not repelled in any way;

"Considering that Mahan could not recover on the said note;

"And considering there is error, etc.;

"Doth reverse, etc., and doth condemn the said Baxter to pay the costs incurred in the Superior Court as well as the costs of this appeal."

Judgment reversed.

#### COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.

QUEBEC, December 7, 1883.

DORION, C.J., RAMSAY, TESSIER, CROSS & BABY, JJ.

HÉBERT, Appellant, and CHOQUETTE, Respondent.

- Election Act, 38 Vic. (Que.) c. 7—Proof of Election—Inducement to vote.
- The holding of an election is matter of record, and in an action for a penalty, must be proved by the written certificate of the returning officer.
- Suspicions are not to take the place of proof in prosecutions for electoral frauds: the corrupt inducement to vote or to refrain from voting must be clearly proved.

RAMSAY, J. This is an action for a penalty under the Quebec election law, 38 Vic. cap. 7, for bribery. The appellant was found guilty and was condemned to pay \$200, and in default of payment to be imprisoned for six months. The appellant contends that there is no proof to support the action :--

1st. That there is no evidence of any election. 2nd. No evidence of bribery.

Respondent answers that this is a Circuit Court case; that there is no declaration in writing requiring the notes of evidence to be taken down in writing (1074, C. C. P.), and that consequently there is no appeal except on law.

It seems to us that the respondent cannot fairly take up this ground, for the notes were taken and a stenographer was sworn to take them correctly, and these notes are filed.

With regard to the appellant's pretention, it appears that the article does not require, in an action for a penalty any mention of the writ of election or the return thereto. (Sect. 293.) Again, sect. 295 enacts that "it shall not be necessary at the trial of such suit, to produce the writ of election, or the return thereto, nor the authority of the returning officer, but parol evidence of these facts shall be sufficient proof of the same."

"The certificate of the returning officer to that effect shall constitute sufficient proof of the election having been held, and of the fact of any person therein stated to have been a candidate having been such candidate."

It is easily understood that the object of the legislature was to avoid the inconvenience of depriving the Assembly of its officers, and of its archives to make a formal proof of a fact of public notoriety; but it was not intended to substitute parol for written evidence where there was no inconvenience in producing a written certificate. At any rate the legislature has not gone so far. It seems that parol evidence of the writ, of its return, and of the authority of the returning officer will suffice, but that it requires the certificate of the returning officer to establish that the election was held and who were the candidates.

If this be the requirement of the law then the evidence is incomplete, for no one has established who was returning officer, and consequently there can be no valid certificate. Without a certificate of this kind, we don't know that there was an election. Again, we have no more verbal evidence that there was a writ, or that there was a return thereto, than as to who was returning officer. All we have is general evidence that there was an election, but on what authority it was held, no one seems to have thought it necessary to enquire.

It is needless to say that the holding of an

election is matter of record, and that as record it must be proved, except in so far as the stringency of this rule is set aside by positive enactment. Nowhere has the law pretended to say that general evidence of an election would suffice, and I fancy the Legislature will pause before making such a dangerous innovation.

Although this action is called an action of debt, it is so-called only to avoid technical difficulties, but for what is of importance, as the evidence of the offence, it is to be considered as a penal action. Without going further we are to reverse.

But coming to the merits, it seems to me the action is not proved. It is quite evident that, according to no ordinary principle will suspicions do to establish such a case, and that with regard to presumptions, which generally come to aid in the proof of offences, they are inconclusive in these cases. In another case, Lapierre & Laviolette,\* I have endeavour d to draw attention to the phraseology of section 249 of this act. It seems to me that the offence sought to be brought home to the appellant is a violation of sub-section 1, that is, it is a gift to Bouchard's wife to induce this man to vote for one of the candidates. This is a specific charge, and the statute requires that it should be specific.

Now what is the evidence in support of it? I take the evidence of Bouchard, his wife and the girl Isabelle, for I think the attempt to break down their credibility is totally unsuccessful. They are poor people living to some extent, on charity, and very naturally, and I may add, not improperly under Mr. Bernatchez's influence. Now what they tell us is this, that the appellant called and asked Bouchard if he would vote; that Bouchard told them he would, but that he would not say for whom ; and all agree that the appellant said he was right in this, and that he did not ask him to vote for Mr. Fortin, nor make any bargain with him that he should. After that appellant gave Bouchard's wife \$5 without any further stipulation or understanding.

I can fancy that Hebert may have thought that giving \$5 to this semi-mendicant, who had not a cent in the house, was likely to produce a friendly feeling to appellant, but 1 deny that any one has the right to say it was given as an inducement to vote, when all the parties swear that there was no understanding of the sort between them.

To say that charity must cease because an election is going on appears to me as ridiculous as it is infamous. The sincerity of the advocates of such views may be judged by their practice. They denounce giving a few dollars to a beggar woman for fear it may bias her husband in favor of the donor, and they set forth the pecuniary advantages to be derived by manufacturers or farmers from free trade or protective tariffs as the most unanswerable reason for voting for this or that candidate. Acts of Parliament will not, I fear, be found to be very efficient means of making people patriotic. If parliamentary elections have the effect of inducing even spasmodic fits of charity, it is not a totally despicable gain. But whatever may be the abstract view upon these matters, the legislature has not yet laid down the rule that suspicions are to take the place of proof in all prosecutions for electoral frauds.

I am to reverse, not only on the absence of proof of the election having been held, but also on the absence of proof that the \$5 was given to the mendicant woman to induce her husband to vote or to refrain from voting.

The Court is unanimous in reversing the judgment.

Sir A. A. DORION, C.J., was to reverse on the first point, but he thought there was evidence to justify the Court in presuming that the \$5 was given to induce the husband to vote.

Judgment reversed.

#### COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.

MONTREAL, Sept. 27, 1882.

DORION, C.J., RAMSAY, TESSIER, CROSS & BABY, JJ. LAPIERRE (deft. below) appellant, & LAVIOLETTE (plff. below), respondent.

## Quebec Election Act—Inducement to refrain from voting—Evidence.

The appellant complained of a judgment rendered in the District of Richelieu, condemning him to pay a penalty of \$200 for having committed an act of corruption within section 249 of the Quebec Election act.

It appears that an election for the Quebec Legislature was in progress in the County of Berthier, and the 29th December, 1880, was

<sup>\*</sup> The case of Lapierre & Laviolette, referred to by Mr. Justice Ramsay, turned entirely on evidence, and has not been reported. By way of completing the above report, we give a note of it as an appendix to the present case.

fixed for the voting. The appellant was a supporter of Mr. Sylvestre, the Liberal candidate. The day before the voting he got a number of voters to go to Montreal on the pretence of getting various articles for him, but really, as was charged, to procure their absence from the polls. Among those who it was alleged were thus tampered with was Adrien Hétu. The appellant paid Hétu \$6 to go from Lavaltrie to Montreal for a load of 1,000 pounds, but the load turned out to be a packet of cotton of about ten pounds weight. Joseph Prud'homme got \$5 to go to town for a small package of whiskey. The Court below found that the engagement of Hétu was a sham, and that the money was paid to secure his absence from the poll, he being a Conservative. The penalty of \$200, or six months' imprisonment, was therefore inflicted.

RAMSAY, J. (diss.) This is an action for a penalty under the Quebec Election Act of 1875 (38 Vic. c. 7, sect. 249) This section contains five sub-sections, the first four of which are directed against corrupt agreements to induce people to vote or to refrain from voting at an election. The fifth and last sub section is legislation of a peculiar character. It makes it penal to give money to another with the intention of preventing an elector from voting, although there be no corrupt agreement, that is to say, without any corruption on the part of the recipient. I may at once say that this is not the action brought in the present case, and which without confession on the part of the defendant is not susceptible of proof; for I take it there can by no possibility be any presumption of a malicious intent arising out of the doing of an absolutely innocent act. The action is very loosely drawn, and if it can be sustained at all it must be as an action under sub-section 1, that is, as being the giving of money in order to induce one Adrien Hetu not to vote. There is no direct evidence of any such contract, nor indeed is it pretended that there is. But plaintiff says that there was a simulated bargain that Hetu should go to Montreal on the polling day, pretending to get a load of goods for appellant, that appellant had no load of goods to carry, that Hetu was to return empty-handed after the polling was over, so that he could not vote, and that for this pretended service he was to get from appellant \$6. I think I may safely say that of this contract so elaborated there is absolutely no direct evidence either. The appellant was not examined, and Hétu distinctly denies that there was any such agreement, and no witness testifies to having any knowledge of there being any such bargain between appellant and Hétu. But plaintiff says : "That is not necessary; I have a right to presume

that the appellant is guilty and that a contract did exist between them, because, 1. Lapierre did return without a load but only with a small bundle of little value. 2. Because Hétu was a supporter of the Conservative candidate, to whom the appellant was strongly opposed. 3. Because appellant did engage another person to go an errand to prevent him from voting, if we are to believe the story of Mr. Joseph Prud'homme.

It appears to me that these presump-tions are unfounded and inconclusive, and that the evidence of a different act of corruption is inadmissible. There is no doubt that a guilty intention may be inferred from other acts of a like nature. But this class of evidence is admitted with great care, and I take it there must be a wrongful, or at least an ambiguous act to qualify. An illustration will make my meaning clear. I find A without right in my house by night and I accuse him of being there with intent to commit a felony. In proof of this charge I can prove that he was there before and did commit a felony; but if I find a man walking on the road before my house where he has a right to be, I could not prove that he had any felonious intent in being there, by showing that he did walk there on a previous occasion when he did commit a felony.

I therefore say that all the evidence of Prud'homme is illegal. It is just as though you proved that a man had stolen because he had stolen on another occasion. In the same way, that Hétu brought back no load proves nothing. I am to reverse.

DORION, C. J., also dissented on the ground of the insufficiency of the evidence. There was no sufficient evidence against Lapierre. He engaged a man named Hétu to go to Montreal and get a load. There was no time fixed for him to make the trip, except that he was to bring the load before New Year's Day. There was no mention of the election, nor any request as to not voting. He might have gone to Montreal and returned in time to vote, or he might have voted first and then brought the load. Colorable intention was not proved. His Honor considered the law in question a good one, but there was no evidence on which to rest a judgment against Lapierre. It was proved, moreover, that he did not meddle with the election.

The majority of the Court held that the judgment against Lapierre ought not to be disturbed. The circumstances connected with the engagement of Hétu were in the opinion of the majority such as to lead to the belief that the intention was to secure his absence from the poll.

Judgment confirmed, Dorion, C. J., and Ramsay, J., dissenting.

Piché, Q. C., for the appellant. Gagnon, for the respondent.

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