

JUDICIAL PROMOTIONS.

HON. MR. FOY PREPARES WAY FOR NEW APPOINTMENTS.

Significance Attached to Bill Introduced by the Attorney-General in Legislature Yesterday—Night Sitings Commence To-day.

Significance is attached to the innocent Government measure presented by Hon. J. J. Foy, the Attorney-General, at the short session of the Legislature yesterday, "to amend the Judicature Act." Last year, when Mr. Justice Anglin was appointed from the High Court to the Supreme Court, the Minister submitted an equally innocent measure, in which it was provided that where a High Court Judge was appointed to the Supreme Court, he should be allowed eight weeks in which to deliver pending judgments. The bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Foy yesterday makes a similar provision in event of a judge of the Court of Appeal being appointed to the Supreme Court, and has accordingly started considerable corridor comment and speculation as to possible judicial promotions by the Minister of Justice.

The Attorney-General also moved the first reading of a bill "respecting the property of religious institutions." It makes a radical addition to the present act. Under existing statutes it is provided that property acquired by a religious institution may be disposed of only by public auction, following advertisement. This has proved an inconvenience in certain cases and the change has been petitioned for.

The petitioners were well-established congregations who had purchased land and established auxiliary missions. These had grown to self-supporting organizations and the parent churches were desirous of conveying the property to the trustees of the new congregations. This, however, could only be done by public auction under the present law. The Minister's bill gives them the right to convey their property to offspring organizations.

The Legislature dips into hard work to-day. The re-organized committees meet this morning to tackle the waiting bill-of-fare, while Sir James Whitney has announced the inauguration of night sittings. Even the Government House dinner for to-night will not prevent the Legislature going on at eight o'clock in an effort to cover ground on the budget debate, which the Premier proposes to conclude on Thursday. Several speakers are still booked to contribute to it.

Dr. C. N. Anderson (North Essex) presented his bill to extend the jurisdiction of Division Courts by enabling them to deal with accounts up to \$200, instead of \$100 as at present, and with notes up to \$400 instead of \$200, as at present. It got a first reading.