

# Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XXXIX.

OCTOBER 1, 1903.

NO. 19.

George Wells, K.C., has been appointed Judge of the County Court of Welland in the room of Judge Fitzgerald, resigned. The vacancy in the County Court judgeship of Lennox and Addington, caused by the death of his Honor Judge Wilkison, has been filled by the appointment of James Henry Madden of the town of Napanee, Barrister at Law. While we still hold to the opinion that it is undesirable to appoint County Judges from the local Bar, the selection of Mr. Madden is in itself so entirely satisfactory that but for the principle involved it would be quite unnecessary to refer to the matter.

The Bar Society of Nova Scotia met recently to pass a resolution to record "the deep feeling of sorrow and regret felt by its members at the sudden death of C. Sydney Harrington, K.C., a leading member of the Halifax Bar and a member of the Council of the Bar Society." Several judges and leading lawyers were present and referred in eulogistic terms to Mr. Harrington's career, and spoke of him as a learned and able advocate, a man of considerable literary attainments and an eloquent speaker, as well as one generally beloved by the profession.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trade at New Westminster a resolution was passed to the effect that it was desirable to facilitate the more speedy and cheaper administration of justice in British Columbia by making a change in the constitution of its courts. The suggestion was to abolish the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court as a court of first instance, making it exclusively a Court of Appeal, also to abolish the County Courts, and then to establish a Superior Court with original jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters; further, to divide the Province into Judicial Districts to be presided over by a judge, who should reside permanently in the district for which he should be appointed. We cannot say that these suggestions seem to be in all respects desirable; but we shall be interested in hearing the views of the profession on the subject. The Board of Trade may possibly be right in desiring some change but we doubt whether it has been rightly advised as to the best means for attaining the desired result.