

## THE NEW JUDGES—MEETING OF COUNTY JUDGES.

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On the 16th day of last month William Proudfoot, Q. C., was sworn in as one of the Vice-Chancellors of the Court of Chancery, and, on the day following, Hon. Vice-Chancellor Strong, George William Burton, Q. C., and Christopher Salmon Patterson, Q. C., were sworn in as Justices of the Court of Error and Appeal, under the recent Act.

We have already spoken of this Act, and expressed an opinion that it would have been more satisfactory if some arrangement had been made by "the powers that be" which would have resulted in the appointment, as the new Justices of Appeal, of the three chiefs of the Superior Courts of Law and Equity. We fear that for a time at least the new court will not, as a *Court of Appeal*, owing to the strength of the courts below, secure that confidence which such a court should command. Nor can we be surprised at this, when we see that the new court is partly composed of men taken directly from the Bar; for in a conflict of opinion between a court which from its constitution *may* be composed principally of new men, and a court the members of which have large judicial experience, and have for years undergone a judicial training, there can, we fancy, be no question but that the profession and the thinking public would accept the decision of the latter in preference to the former.

Whilst we feel bound to say as much as this, and once again to deplore the existence of circumstances, whatever they may be, which have deprived the Province, in its court of highest resort, of the services of sages of the law who have grown grey on the judicial bench, we are far from reflecting upon the appointments that have been made. Of Mr. Justice Strong's thorough fitness for his present position we have already spoken, and as to those taken from the Bar, we believe

the choice was fairly and honestly made from the best available material. The observations we have felt it our duty to make being directed not to persons, but to the principle involved, we may properly conclude, as we most gladly do, by congratulating the new judges heartily upon the high position they have attained.

## MEETING OF COUNTY JUDGES.

There was a large meeting of the County Judges at Osgoode Hall late last month, when various topics of interest were discussed. We are unable now, from want of space, to refer to their proceedings at length, but shall do so next month.

The Board of County Judges also met at the same time. Being aware that the Board was engaged in considering the question of an increase of fees to Division Court officers, under the clauses in the Administration of Justice Act of last session, we were anxious to give officers the earliest intimation of any change made. At the last moment, and at some inconvenience to ourselves, we have procured the table of fees to Clerks and Bailiffs, which will be found substantially correct. It comes into force on the first day of this month. We have not had time to examine the items very carefully but notice that for a great many services no increase whatever has been made, and the Board, it strikes us, has not been very liberal in any case. No doubt the table will, *in the cities*, overpay officers, but we presume a discriminating tariff, if within the province of the Board, was not deemed expedient. Probably legislation in that direction will be necessary. The tariff will be found on page 207.

We have received copies of Mr. Walkem's annotated edition of the Married Woman's Property Acts, and Mr. Ewart's Manual of Costs, but too late for review in this issue.