

## THE GREAT NEED OF A "COURT OF APPEAL"

In reply to representations made by the Post and Telegraph officials of the Union of South Africa, the Postmaster General of that country made the following significant reply:—

"Under the Public Service Act, 1912, an independent body, the Public Service Commission, has been created to regulate appointments, promotions and other cognate matters in connection with the service and grievances from the members of the Postal and Telegraph Department who are dissatisfied with the Postmaster-General's decision, are inquired into by the Commission. It appears to the Government that this body, composed of able, experienced, and judicially-minded men, free from Government control, and responsible only to Parliament, is well fitted to hold the balance fairly between the Postmaster-General and his subordinates. Any officer who thinks that he has been unjustly treated by the Commission, as well as by the Postmaster-General, may appeal to the Government, and finally to Parliament if he thinks fit."

## SUPERANNUATION NOTES.

A notable announcement during the week came from the Pennsylvania Railroad, that paragon of employers. It is as follows:—

"The record number of employees to be retired in one month has been set by the Pennsylvania Railroad system, according to a bulletin recently issued. Not since the pension plan has been adopted for the road has the high mark of 77 for a month been set.

"A general superintendent, an assistant and a vice-president are among those pensioned last month. These men have been retired under the same conditions as those which apply to a track-walker or a brakeman. Every employee must retire at the age of 70."

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Worn out by the delay in the passage of retirement legislation for superannuated employees, and after nearly half a century of service for

his country, Walter Johnson, 72 years old, until February chief clerk of the Interference division of the patent office at Washington, this week blew his brains out in the crematory of an undertaker.

Johnson was a veteran of the civil war, and after the war he came to Washington from his home in Michigan and entered the Government service, where he worked continuously, and his chiefs say faithfully, ever since. In February he was demoted to the grade of examiner, and his salary was reduced correspondingly. He was old and the strain of years spent in a responsible position had told on his health, so that it was hard for him to work at all; but, he had to live, he had no one to support him in his old age, and the Congress had not provided for his retirement, consequently he had to accept demotion, and go on labouring almost as hard as before, while a younger man was given the responsibility and the better salary.