

It was no light thing in the days of entrenched privilege for any ambitious lawyer who had his eyes set on a judgeship, to antagonize the rulers whose recommendations prevailed at the colonial office at London. The brilliant Samuel George William Archibald, keen lawyer and eloquent advocate of popular rights that he was, got quite a taste of this resentment when he sought the appointment of the chief justiceship on the resignation of the aged Sampson Blowers.

This obstruction on the part of the oligarchy had a somewhat restraining effect on the older men who saw all the plums of office go to those who defended monopoly in the lower house. But the young reformers who were of Doyle's company looked to the people for the reward which their efforts on behalf of reform deserved. Their faces were towards the morning when Doyle brought the question of the terms of the coal mines of the province to the notice of the legislature. He moved that a committee be appointed to wait upon his honor the President (in the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor through ill health) and request him to order the proper officers to lay before the house copies of such documents and papers as related to the tenure of the coal mines of this province.

Thus it will be seen that Doyle was the first of the reformers to take a practical step in the direction of freeing the mines and minerals from the grasp of the creditors of the Duke of York, to whom they had been assigned. Though it fell to the lot of others, in the late fifties, to carry the project of gaining control of the minerals of the province to a consummation, it should not be forgotten that Doyle was one of the pioneers in the movement.

In the judiciary debate Mr. Doyle differed from his brother reformers in upholding the court of Common Pleas, and in defending its usefulness for the trial of minor criminal and other causes. S. G. W. Archibald, some years earlier, was the chief advocate for the establishment of this court, and had considerable trouble in getting it established—the motion only pass-