

XIV. In an action between partners, or between principal and agent, if either party make it appear to the Court, that, previous to his complaint or answer, he made an offer in writing to his adversary, to submit the matter in difference between them to arbitration, as prescribed in section 5 XV, no costs shall be awarded against the party making such offer.

In cases between partners, &c., no costs without prior offer of arbitration.

XV. The Arbitrators required by section XIV, must be three competent and disinterested persons one to be chosen by each party, and the third to be either chosen by those two, or by the Judge of the Court of Conciliation of the County where the notice was served, or before whom 10 the parties voluntarily appeared.

Arbitrators how appointed.

XVI. It shall be the duty of the Judge of the Court of Conciliation, so far as may be compatible with his duties as Judge, to give to every person who may ask it, advice respecting his differences with another. No fee shall be received by the Judge for any services rendered in the said 15 Court, nor shall any proceedings be protracted therein longer than fifteen days, unless both parties agree to a longer delay. When advising parties in cases submitted to him, the Judge shall act according to conscience and right, without regard to technical rules.

Judge to give advice to parties: limitation. No Fee.

To decide according to conscience.

XVII. No party to any admission or declaration made before the Court 20 of Conciliation, shall be bound thereby or responsible therefor, in any other judicial proceeding whatever, except as provided in this Act: No statements made by parties before the said Court shall be used as evidence for or against them in any other place, in case the Court fail to effect a settlement of their differences: The hearing of all matters submitted to the Court must be private. 25

Admission, &c., not to be used against party making it.

Hearing to be private.

XVIII. The parties must appear in person and not by an agent or attorney; and no oaths shall be administered to the parties; nor shall the parties call and examine witnesses.

No attorney, &c., allowed.

XIX. Each of the Judges shall transmit to the office of the Attorney 30 General for Upper Canada, at any time during the month of January, in each year, a report of his proceedings under this Act, for the then next previous year, together with such suggestions relative to its improvement, or to the placing of other causes of action under the cognizance of the Court, as he shall see fit to offer.

Judges to report proceedings under this act, yearly.

35 XX. This Act shall have force and take effect upon, from and after the first day of January, 1855, and shall continue in operation until the first day of January, 1858.

Commencement and duration of Act.