

## A WISE JUDGE.

**J**UDGE Chadwick, in his charge to the Grand Jury assembled at Guelph, Ont., a few days ago, made the following remarks anent the appointment of a shorthand writer for the Wellington County Court:

"I am happy to be able to inform you that what is decidedly a step in our progress has been made in this county. I allude to the fact that the county and city have joined in obtaining the assistance of a shorthand writer for these courts. In doing so, they are following the experience of other counties and of other courts in this country. There can be no doubt that a more perfect administration of justice can be arrived at, where the evidence of witnesses is taken fully and accurately in their own words. If the Court on application for new trials or motions of that kind, or a Superior Court dealing with a case on appeal, have the evidence before them as it was given, they of course are in a better position to form an opinion upon it. Questions cannot arise as to what a witness said or did not say, and the true meaning of what is said can be more readily understood. This will lead witnesses to be more cautious in their statements and to avoid contradictions and statements which they know may be refuted. Besides, the rapidity with which evidence can be taken will be a great benefit to those who have the misfortune to be engaged in law suits as parties or witnesses. Cases will be tried in much less time than formerly, and people will be free to go and attend to their own affairs instead of waiting about the court at inconvenience and expense.

It will also I am confident effect a great saving in the cost of the administration of justice

as no doubt the duration of the court will be decreased, and, every day saved is a clear gain in expenses of about 70 jurors fees, etc."

## REPORTING AT OTTAWA.

**T**HE Ottawa correspondent of the *Oshawa Reformer* says, "I was much interested in watching the reporters at work. Theirs is a very laborious business during the sitting of the House. They retire into the arms of Morpheus after the public arise from their slumbers. The newspaper reporters' gallery is directly overhead in rear of the Speaker's chair. The "Hansard" reporters one at a time enter to report the debates. Two tables and chairs are provided for them on the floor of the House facing the Speaker. The "Hansard" staff is supposed to be a thoroughly competent one this session, being composed of experienced journalists, and the language to be used and the subjects discussed is quite familiar to their ears, as they have studied the politics of the country daily. Mr. Geo. Eyvel (one of the "Hansard" staff) who is also one of the proprietors of the *Sarnia Observer*, appeared to be the swiftest writer. Watching his pencil from the gallery, I came to the conclusion that he was never (well, hardly ever) behind, no matter how fast the orator of the occasion spoke. Further in the matter of reporting I wish to add that Mr. Blake is the most rapid speaker in the House. Mr. Holland, official reporter of the Senate, &c., reported Mr. Blake for ten minutes on Thursday evening, and he told me he gave utterance to 1,960 words in that time, or an average of 196 words per minute. Enough said as to the reporting, the value of which, I am of the opinion, is not fully considered by the outside world."

## Phonographic and Literary Gossip.

## CANADIAN.

Mr. Joseph C. Crosskill is one of the leading Nova Scotian reporters and newspaper men. He is now at Ottawa, engaged in reporting.

Mr. Phillips Thompson, a clever Canadian journalist, has joined the *Globe* staff. Mr. Thompson is known to the public as "Jimuel Briggs," of Cobocock University."

Archibald Forbes was dined by the Toronto editors and reporters on the 28th of December. Prof. Goldwin Smith presided. Appropriate toasts were given, the one alluding to the shorthand writers being replied to by Messrs. G. B. Bradley and E. E. Horton.

An animated discussion took place at a recent meeting of the Ottawa Press Gallery on the

question of interdicting smoking in the press rooms. A reporter says: "common sense finally prevailed, and it was decided that the lovers of the weed should not be interfered with."

The new Hansard staff at Ottawa is giving great satisfaction to the Government. This is owing to its being comprised of six of the best reporters in Canada. A full report of the Parliamentary proceedings of the day previous is printed and laid before the House every afternoon at three o'clock sharp.

The death is announced of Mr. Charles Bedford, which occurred at Ottawa a short time ago. He was for some time connected with the Toronto press, and ranked as one of the oldest journalists in Canada. He commenced newspaper life as a reporter on the now defunct