



CONDUCTED BY T. WILLIAM BELL.

Good News for Good Phonos.

The Circuit Court opened on the 14th inst., Justice Duff presiding. In charging the jury His Honor invited attention to a few remarks which he desired to make on the causes of delay in the administration of justice in the courts of this county. He supported the propriety of expressing his views to the grand jury on this subject by stating that it was one which had already found its way into the columns of our newspapers, and one also that had recently claimed the notice of the Common Council. In the course of his remarks the learned Judge showed that the delay was in a slight manner due to the accumulation of business which resulted from the evil of entering causes on the docket before they were ready for trial; but he said that the large amount of business in arrears was chiefly owing to the great increase of litigation during the last twenty-five years, and from the extraordinary length to which the trials of causes in many instances are protracted. His Honor referred to the variety of suggestions which had been presented to him as a remedy, and stated that none of them had appeared to him as being fitted to meet the difficulty save that of employing phonographers to take shorthand notes of the evidence. The introduction of phonography into law courts, he added, would certainly be the means of saving a great deal of time and expense, which would be duly appreciated by the public, as well as the clients. He concluded his charge by inviting the jury to give the subject their consideration, intimating that he would be glad to hear favorably from them regarding the same.

Now that Judge Duff has been actuated by his progressive spirit to take this very important matter in hand, we feel that we can safely predict an early change for the better. We understand it is the intention of His Honor to direct

his efforts towards having a bill passed at the next session of the Legislature of New Brunswick to provide for employing shorthand reporters in the courts of the Province. This will be a step in the right direction, and we earnestly hope that the efforts of the learned Judge may duly blossom into success.

We are informed that this time saving method of reporting evidence would have been introduced into our law courts long ago had it not been for an unhappy experiment of its workings made by some of our leading lawyers, which resulted in placing phonography, as a law-reporting instrument, under a cloud of disfavor. This unfortunate result was due to the *freshness* of the system employed by the reporter whose services had been secured for the occasion.

The system to which we refer was a domestic one, known as Scovill's Stenography. From that time up to the present day shorthand reporting has been regarded by many of our judges and barristers as a very unsafe method of preserving the testimony of a witness. However, as the aforesaid domestic system is pretty generally known to be a worthless one, and as there are in this Province many writers of Graham's Standard system who are prepared to come to the front, when occasion demands, to redeem the reputation of the phonographic profession, we have no reason to say that New Brunswick will not soon be on an equal footing with the Upper Provinces in respect to the expeditious administration of justice.

Telephone vs. Telegraph.

In view of the fact that the telephone is rapidly coming into general use, and of its likelihood to supercede the present method of transmitting messages over the wire, we would urge upon telegraphic operators the necessity of their forming an early acquaintance with the art of phonography. Should the difficulties be surmounted which, at present, cast slight shadows of doubt over the possibility of the telephone being made serviceable in this particular branch, the order of the day among the electric telegraphic companies will be "out with the telegraph, and in with the telephone." That the telephone will have no use for those who cannot write shorthand, admits of no doubt whatever, for the words will be transmitted at the rate of 200 per minute, instead of 25, as at present. We would earnestly invite all operators who have no de-