

Kings, had long attained a high position in political and professional life. He had "won his spurs" and made his mark as a leading member of the Bar before the present eminent Chief Justice had attained any such distinction, filling the office of Solicitor-General with great ability for several years. It will not be disputed that he was the equal of any, and the superior of several, of those who have in the meantime sat in the higher court in the qualities that make up an able and useful judge. He was early endowed with the additional office of judge of the Court of Vice-Admiralty for New Brunswick, which added \$600 a year and fees to his emoluments; but his repeated applications, or those of his friends, for his advancement to the Supreme Court Bench of the Province were met and vetoed by the arbitrary and senseless rule, "No County Court judge need apply"; a demoralizing rule, discouraging and checking the legitimate ambition of a judge of the lower court to excel in his high calling. There can be no valid reason for such a rule any more than for one prohibiting a judge of the Supreme Court of the Province from aspiring to the Supreme Court of Canada, or a judge of the Superior Court of Quebec from being promoted to the Queen's Bench of that Province.

The County Courts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are more analogous, in many respects, to the Superior Court of Quebec than they are to the County Courts of Ontario; and from the Superior Court of Quebec promotion is continually made.

Strong memorials from the Bar of New Brunswick, backed by pressure from influential quarters, failed to secure Judge Watters' further elevation, but they were not without a agreeable result in one way: his salary as County Judge was raised to \$3,000, while one of his counties was detached from the district, thus lessening his labour and expenses. Thenceforth he was, until his death, and his successor since has been, in the anomalous position of enjoying \$600 a year more salary than any other County Court judge in the Dominion. This increase, really a partial compensation for non-promotion, was justified in Parliament by the considerable amount of criminal business that fell to him, but on the same ground every County Court judge in the Province had a similar claim; while it was notorious to every one acquainted with both cities that the civil business alone in Halifax gave the judge more work than the civil and criminal