

judicial temperament and judicial knowledge required to satisfactorily dispose of litigation, and there is no certainty that any successor in that office would be a lawyer, as Mr. Sifton is.

The suggestion is as follows: Let the Court of Appeal be composed of three judges—the present judges and the Gold Commissioner. Let these three have co-ordinate jurisdiction in all matters, including mining cases. Do away with appeals to the Supreme Court of Canada, the Supreme Court of British Columbia and to the Minister of the Interior, except perhaps in cases where very large amounts are at stake, or under such circumstances as might be thought to warrant the delay of an appeal to some court outside the territory, for it might not be well entirely to release both judge and bar from criticism, and so facilitate the growth of those errors which a competent oversight is well calculated to restrain. The three judges having original jurisdiction, and sitting as an appellate Court, would, in the great majority of cases, soon get rid of arrears, and thereafter dispose with despatch of litigation as it should arise.

Men holding judicial positions in such a country and so far away from centres of thought and criticism should of course be selected by the Government with extra care; and it goes without saying that professional men living in a country labouring under many disadvantages and far removed from old associations and having (or who ought to have) the necessary characteristics of strength of character, honesty of purpose, and a sound knowledge of law, should be well paid. And here it must be remarked that what would be a good salary in other parts of the Dominion is a pittance in the Yukon. In a place where 25 cents is paid for a daily paper, \$60 a month for a three-roomed cabin, and other expenses in proportion, it is clear that the salaries should be very much in excess of those paid to judges in other places.

We shall be glad if the above observations will in any way help towards a better condition of things in a district which, from its peculiar conditions, and from the fact that it contributes largely to the country's wealth, deserves the most generous treatment in the administration of justice.