

known firm headed by Mr. W. H. Beatty and the late Mr. T. G. Blackstock, which has already contributed two of its members to the Bench, though one of them, unfortunately, like the lost Pleiad, too soon refused any longer to shine in the serene atmosphere of the Supreme Court!

Mr. Riddell soon acquired a large practice as a counsel in both civil and criminal cases. An active Liberal in politics, he was recommended by the Tupper Government of 1896 for the appointment of Q.C., and not long afterwards received the coveted "silk" at the hands of the Ross administration. Although in the "middle fifties," he is still a young man, to all intents and purposes and will no doubt undertake the weighty duties and responsibilities which fall upon a Canadian judge with the same buoyant energy and conscientious application which have been recognized in his work as an advocate.

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The many friends of Mr. Justice Duff will be glad to know of his appointment to the Bench of the Supreme Court of Canada in the room and stead of Hon. Robert Sedgewick, deceased. This is the first appointment from our Pacific Province. Mr. Justice Duff's promotion has been rapid. He was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1893. In February, 1904, he was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia, on the retirement of Mr. Justice Walkem. Our remarks at that time (ante, vol. 40, p. 169) are as appropriate on this occasion as they were then:—"The appointment is none the less welcome and to be appreciated in that Mr. Duff never was a politician, but has attained his high position at the Bar by force of character, brains, industry, and rectitude." We congratulate him on his promotion and venture to predict he will greatly strengthen the Supreme Court Bench and be a useful and successful judge.

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It being settled law that a "strike" will not excuse delay or neglect in performing a contract, unless there is a provision therein that its occurrence shall exempt a contractor from damages for the breach, it is interesting to note some recent cases as