

their views on such matters in England, and it might well be done here. In fact such opinions might often be the most valuable part of the evidence received by a commission or committee charged with the task of revision. But that is quite a different thing from taking the head of a court from his proper duties to do work, part of which at least would be to act as a sort of referee in what would be a contest between capital and labour to the detriment of the dignity of his high office.

#### *DRIFTING.*

"I feel there is getting abroad amongst Canadians a sense that is not of very great importance after all that crime should be punished, and that it is a pity to punish those who have committed crime, and that means should be taken to effect escape of those who are undoubtedly guilty. That is a very false sympathy which has been the curse of a great part of this decade. We have to determine whether life and property shall be secure in the English sense in which it has been for a century, or whether we are to deteriorate to that course of civilization which characterizes some of the States in the adjoining country."

Such were the words addressed by Mr. Justice Riddell to the grand jury of the county of York in the Province of Ontario at the opening of the late Assizes. If the learned judge be correct in the opinion thus expressed, Canada is in danger of losing what is, even in an economic sense, one of her most valuable assets. As much as the possession of vast natural resources in the fertility of her soil and the wealth of her minerals, her reputation as being a well-governed, an orderly, law-abiding, and a law-respecting community, has been the means of bringing within our boundaries a large number of settlers of the class best qualified to develop the natural wealth of which we are so fond of boasting. That reputation we cannot afford to lose, not only for the benefits it brings to us, but still more for its effect upon the character of our rising population. The spirit of order and obedience must be maintained, not only in the administration of justice, but in the