

perhaps have to leave the locality, or who find, when their cases are called, that their witnesses are scattered to the four winds. In this part of the Dominion we can scarcely appreciate the conditions of the Yukon Country, and the necessity for much more prompt justice than is required in this part of the country, and being a new country with peculiar conditions litigation is greatly in excess of that in older localities.

It is not to be gathered from what has been said that the volume of business is so great or that there are not sufficient force of professional men to bring cases to trial. There is ample in this respect, but the need is said to be still further judicial help.

This brings us to a practical suggestion, which must be introduced with some explanatory remarks. At present appeals from a single judge lie only to the Supreme Court of Canada or to the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and in mining cases to the Minister of the Interior. As long as this remains it is manifest that speedy finality of litigation is impossible. The remedy advocated by those living in the territory is to have a *local* Court of Appeal.

The Gold Commissioner, Mr. Senkler, is said to be an excellent official. He is a lawyer and sits as a judge in mining cases. He has other duties of an executive and administrative character to perform. Many of these could be undertaken and appropriately dealt with by the assistant commissioner. In connection with the suggestion which we shall venture to make it is urged that owing to the peculiar circumstances of the country an intelligent view of many of the points coming up for adjudication cannot well be formed by a Court of Appeal necessarily more or less ignorant of the detail of daily life and the condition of business and things generally in that far distant territory. At the same time however, it may be remarked that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council hears appeals from India, where everything differs even more widely from the state of things with which the Committee is familiar than anything in Dawson can differ from other business which the Appellate Courts have to do.

In mining cases the appeal is to the Minister of the Interior. He doubtless does his best, but is engaged in active politics. It in no way reflects upon the present Minister to say that any one holding a political position would be apt to be lacking in the