

nothing, and were prompt and without delay. This mode of dealing with both crimes and disputes seems to have given very general satisfaction, for Captain Constantine was a fair and just man and his decisions were generally accepted as impartial. When, however, the discovery of the rich finds on Bonanza and Eldorado set the world on fire and caused such an extraordinary rush of prospectors and miners to the Klondike, it became necessary that a regular court of civil and criminal jurisdiction should be established. Such a court already existed in the eastern portion of the territories, having jurisdiction generally throughout the province, but so far no judge had been assigned to reside and administer justice in the Yukon region. The Government accordingly selected from among the judges of that court Mr. Justice McGuire, with instructions to establish a court at Dawson. A clerk of the court, a sheriff, and a crown prosecutor were appointed, and a new district entitled the judicial district of Yukon created. The new court officials arrived in Dawson in February, 1898, and at once addressed themselves to the organization of court work, first dealing with certain prisoners committed to jail awaiting trial. By the Northwest Territories act certain offenses, such as assaults, including aggravated cases, stealing of property not exceeding \$200 in value, and a few others, can be tried by the judge alone without a jury. As to all other crimes, with the consent of the prisoner, they can be heard and disposed of by the judge alone, but the prisoner is entitled in these cases to a trial by jury. The jury panel is composed of persons chosen by the judge, from whom six are balloted, the prisoner having the usual rights of challenge peremptory and for cause. So far no prisoner has asked for a jury, preferring to leave his case to the adjudication of the judge alone. This practice permits of prompt disposal of offenders. There are no regular fixed times for the sitting of the court; it in fact sits every day but Sunday, and whenever the prosecution and defense are ready the trial takes place. In case of nonagreement as to a date, this is fixed by the judge after hearing counsel for the prisoner.

The procedure in civil cases is very simple, being based on and adapted from the judicature act in England. A writ of summons, with a statement of claim in ordinary language, is served on defendant, who has ten days within which to file an appearance and six days further to put in his defense, which is a simple statement in unambiguous terms, of the facts or law relied upon. After the close of the pleadings, on application by the plaintiff and on notice to the defendant, a day for trial is fixed by the judge. In all civil actions where the claim is ex contractu and does not exceed \$1,000, and in actions in tort not exceeding \$500, the parties are not entitled to a jury; in all other cases either party may demand a jury of six, selected as in criminal cases. No regular times for the sittings of court to try causes generally are fixed, but each case is tried as soon as the parties are or ought to be ready.

The sheriff is at present Superintendent Constantine, the officer in command of the police. The police are employed in executing warrants and summoning witnesses in criminal causes, and generally in carrying into effect the decisions of the court.

Owing to the nature of mining business, the large interests involved, and the frequent necessity for immediate action, a liberal use is made of the procedure by way of injunction, with or without the appointment of a receiver. Where the circumstances warrant it, the summons to the other side to show cause why an injunction should not issue