

Talbot Macbeth, K.C., of the City of London, to be Judge of the County of Middlesex, in the room of His Honour William Elliott, retired.

John Lawrence Dowlin, of the City of Ottawa, Barrister-at-Law, to be Junior Judge of the County of Kent, in the room of His Honour Robert Stewart Woods, retired. (Gazetted March 19.)

Flotsam and Jetsam.

How the United States worked the Alaskan award.—There was published yesterday the full text of the letters that have passed between Great Britain, Canada and the United States, on the subject of the Alaskan dispute and the notorious award of the arbitrators. Full of significant facts that have not yet been made public, it reveals the extraordinary facility with which the United States succeeded in bluffing Great Britain into accepting the appeal to arbitration under their own conditions. After three years of unsatisfactory official correspondence, Mr. Hay, on October 17, 1902, on behalf of the United States, suggested that a tribunal of jurists should be appointed whose members should give a reasoned, but not a final opinion on the questions at issue. Having secured British and Canadian approval of this modest proposal, Mr. Hay then drew the bow wildly, and asked that the decision of a majority of this tribunal of jurists should be considered final. Great Britain fell an easy prey, and replied with a ready affirmative, suggesting faintly, however, that all American members of the tribunal in this case should be judges of the Supreme Court. Mr. Hay agreed with the excellence of this as a theory, but apologised for refusing to put it into practice. Matters were rushed forward and when the crucial time came Mr. Hay quietly nominated Mr. Root, U.S. Secretary for war, and two senators as the American members of the Commission. Canada angrily protested, and asked where the impartial jurists of repute were. Great Britain expressed mild surprise at their absence, but at once capitulated, saying that it was no use asking the United States to withdraw the names put forward. The end of this was the notorious award, which became inevitable after such a selection, and which surrendered the whole matter in dispute to the United States.—*London Daily Express, Feb. 3.*

A Worcester paper has unearthed a funny petition. In the reprint from the *Times* of August 26, 1803, a petition to Parliament is quoted, shewing that the number of attorneys had increased in two counties from eight to twenty-four, whereby the peace of those counties had been greatly interrupted by suits. The petitioners therefore prayed that the number be reduced, so that there should be no more than six each in Norfolk and Suffolk, and two for the city of Norwich. The petition was granted provided the judge thought it reasonable.—*Ex.*