

It has many judges and is divided into eight divisions.

The pleadings are simple in form, technicalities are avoided, and the court generally gets to the root of the issue without useless detail.

There seems to be seldom complaint of delay in proceedings here, but if appeal be taken to Albany, there is prospect of the respondent's interests being tied up for a couple of years, as, for some reason, the chief Appellate Court is noted for long arrears on its calendar.

The work of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for the First Division is especially highly regarded. By the power of selection given, the five members are men of exceptional capacity for the work before them. Proceedings are by printed case as in our Appeal Courts. The court sits from one o'clock to five to hear argument, and devotes the rest of the time to discussion and preparing judgments. Out of 1,769 cases heard in 1898 and 1899, this Division was only reversed on final appeal in fifty-three, and modified in six. The decisions of the Divisions of the Supreme Court are only appealable as to matters of law, except in case of disagreement of the judges and consent given in peculiar cases.

It is also to be remembered, as was shewn in recent investigations, that these elective judges are not free from calls on their purses for political purposes, and they have to contribute pretty freely to State and Federal taxes.

The strain of official life may not be as severe in Ottawa and Toronto as in the rushing life of New York, which will probably wear out most men in the fourteen years for which the judges are elected there.

Mr. Justice Gwynne commenced in our old Common Pleas in November, 1868, his useful judicial career, which he lately completed in the Supreme Court at Ottawa at the venerable age of eighty-eight, after thirty-four years of service—about as long as that of the late Chief Justice Sir John B. Robinson.

The Chief Justice of Canada has been Vice-chancellor or judge for thirty-two years. The Chief Justice of Ontario, the President of the High Court of Justice, and two of their learned associates, have each adorned the Bench for more than twenty consecutive years. Mr. Justice Robertson has just completed his fifteenth year, and other four from thirteen to fourteen years.