

With this object in view the following letter was on the 6th of January, 1892, sent to the secretaries of the various law associations, county judges and county attorneys :

"BARRIE, Ont., Jan. 6, 1892.

"DEAR SIR,—The secretary of the Law Society about a month ago sent you, by instructions of the bench, a copy of the report of the Committee on Unlicensed Conveyancers, in order that before such report was considered, the views of the profession thereon might be had. I have, as chairman of that committee, received a number of letters from individual members of the profession, and resolutions passed by several of the county law associations. The majority of these are more or less adverse to the suggestion made by the committee in its report, though all of them recognize that some legislative action is necessary to prevent the evil complained of, and a number make suggestions somewhat similar to those laid before the committee at the time it made its report. When the subject came before Convocation at the semi-annual meeting on the 29th ult., and on previous occasions, several of the Benchers who were in a position to know, stated that there was not the slightest prospect of obtaining legislation which would have for its plain object the protection of the profession against outside conveyancers; and if anything of that kind were attempted, it would probably make an opening for legislation of quite an opposite character, and to the decided and permanent injury of the profession, and the result of Mr. Deacon's efforts in reference to Division Court agents, was cited as an example. This statement is no doubt correct. Under these circumstances, and in view of the opinions expressed as already stated, and the objection strongly urged against giving conveyancers a professional status, I was compelled, when formally moving the adoption of the report, to ask that the further discussion of the matter might stand until the next meeting of the bench, intending to again place the whole matter before the profession and let the situation be fairly considered in all its aspects. I may say that while I have the strongest objection to the giving a status to these non-professional scribes, it appears to be clear that so long as the Legislature is composed as at present, the only course open is the one suggested in the report, with possibly some slight modifications as to the liability of such persons for the work done by them, etc. Now the question arises, shall we adopt the course suggested in the report, *no other course being open*, or shall we abandon any effort to relieve the profession from the inroads of these men rather than give the latter a status, or risk legislation adverse to the profession? I regret that it is necessary to have this matter again brought before the members of the profession, but the importance of the question must be my excuse, if one is necessary. I therefore hope that you will at once bring the matter before the profession in your county, and that an expression of opinion from each county bar or law association, in reference thereto, will be sent to me not later than the 25th inst., as upon that will probably depend the action of Convocation. I believe that the only courses open are, either adopt the report or let the matter drop. Convocation is fully alive to the importance of this question to the members of the profession, especially in country places, but nothing can be done except the Provincial Legislature chooses to act in the matter, and it is because we cannot look for much, if any, aid from that body that the difficulty exists; what Convocation can do, I feel sure will be done."

"Yours truly,

"H. H. STRATHY,

"Chairman Committee Unlicensed Conveyancers."