

young men pause when they find the Order of the Coif double its members in thirty years. The first "law list" was published in 1785. The "King's Council" were twenty, and the whole Bar of England but 420. At the beginning of Her Majesty's reign the Q.C.'s numbered seventy, and the Bar had, with astonishing rapidity, grown to over 2,000. In 1861 there were 4,000 wigs and gowns and 125 "silks." In another ten years the latter class had become 180 strong, and the rank and file of the long robe totalled 5,800. Now there are 220 Queen's Counsel, and the members of the four Inns of Court could be mustered at about 10,000 strong. And yet the cry is "Still they come!"

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THE above reminds us that the condition of affairs in our own Province is far from promising for those who hope to make a living at the law. The profession is much congested and business has fallen away to nothing, and still the candidates for judicial and legal honour pour in. In Toronto, with a population of less than 200,000, we have over six hundred practising lawyers; that is to say, one lawyer in every 330 of the population, men, women, and children. In the Province the condition of affairs is not much better. To take the legal charge of a population of about 2,100,000, we have a Society composed of 1600 lawyers; that is to say, nearly one lawyer to every 1300 persons, scattered over a wide expanse of territory, and including Indians, Italians, and tramps. And we must remember how largely the business which should be done by the profession is cut into by a vast army of irresponsible agents, camp followers, and pirates of every sort and description; eating up, like locusts, every green thing.

These figures should serve to open the eyes of some of the "ambitious young men" of the country, who, leaving their native soil, flock to the city to obtain a high-class education, and after long years of study, and the spending of a small fortune, receive a certificate legalizing them to enter the ranks of an already overcrowded profession, and giving them the privilege of starving as a "gentleman one, etc.," instead of living more or less in ease and comfort as a farmer. Whilst we might have pleasure in admitting that all the young men of this country are capable of shining as legal luminaries, we would still remind our young friends that they must leave some of