

great hardship; it is, at all events, impossible for Ontario or Western Counsel to ascertain with any degree of certainty what time the list from Quebec is likely to take. The Committee has been asked to point out also that where Counsel do their very best to attend and fail to get down in time by reason of an unexpected break in the docket, or miscalculation of the time which earlier cases are likely to take, the public ought not to suffer, but that the Court ought to submit to some slight inconvenience now and then, rather than put suitors who are personally not at fault to inconvenience and expense. We have before us, in Osgoode Hall, the system of the Court of Appeal, where the Bar and the Registrar try to see that the Court is kept fully occupied, and at the same time some concession is made to the convenience of Counsel; and in that higher Court to which you belong I, personally, have found the greatest consideration (far greater, indeed, than that accorded in any Court in this country) is given to the members of the Bar. If there was such a state of affairs in Ottawa as we know to exist in Washington the pressure of arrears of business might well require the strictest rules; but your Court has always been able to dispose of its docket at a sitting of a reasonable length.

I know that I need only draw your attention, and, if need be, the attention of the other members of your Court, to the feeling of the Bar as accepted by the resolution of Convocation; and I would submit for your consideration the following suggestions which would tend to remedy the evils complained of:

1. That, having regard to the distance Counsel have to travel and the value of Counsel's time, a reasonable time should elapse after the termination of the Quebec list and the calling of Ontario cases, such time to be announced during the hearing of the Quebec list when its end is in sight.

2. That no case should be struck out or appeal dismissed for want of appearance, if another case is ready for argument, unless special circumstances call for a different order.

3. That some reasonable consideration should be had for members of the Bar in charge of cases before the Court; for example, a case being over unexpectedly late in the afternoon, it shall cease to be the practice of the Court to strike out the next case for non-appearance of Counsel.

It has been in the minds of some members of the Bar to seek a remedy for the alleged grievances either through the press or Parliament, but any such action was in the meantime thought unnecessary, confidence in the Court, the matter up and dealing fairly by the public being the best answer to such suggestion.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

B. B. OSLER,

*Chairman of the Committee of Convocation.*

Ordered that a copy of the report and letter of the chairman be transmitted to the Minister of Justice respectfully drawing his attention thereto.

That the reports of the society be furnished to the compilers of the "Canadian Annual Digest" during its publication.

The following gentlemen were then introduced and called to the Bar:—Messrs. R. L. MacKinnon (with Honors), H. Arrell, A. E. Christian, J. H. Campbell, F. M. Devine, J. M. Mowat, A. F. Kerby, G. G. Moncrieff, G. G. Davy, G. C. Hart, W. G. Wilson.

Mr. Wilkes gave notice that at the next meeting of Convocation he would move:—That Rule 100, sec. 3 be amended by adding the words "and any retired county judge not resuming practice."