

*An Act to amend the Law respecting the Bar.*

Whereas it has been deemed expedient in the interests of the Bar, of Students-at-Law, and of the Universities of the Province, to amend the law respecting the Bar of the Province of Quebec by further encouraging the law students to follow a law course and curriculum approved by the General Council and adopted by the Universities;

Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the consent of the Legislature of Quebec, enacts as follows:

1. Article 3554 of the Revised Statutes of the Province of Quebec is hereby repealed and replaced by the following:

"3554 (1). It is the duty of examiners to inquire into the morals, character, reputation, knowledge and capacity and qualifications of candidates, and for such purpose they have the right to summon and examine under oath administered by one of them, the candidate or any other person, and to put to them any question pertinent to the inquiry.

"(2). A diploma in law conferred upon a candidate by any of the Universities or Colleges wherein a law course and curriculum approved by the General Council in accordance with Article 3552 have been adopted and followed, shall be sufficient evidence of his knowledge, capacity and qualifications, and shall dispense the candidate from any examination by the examiners except as to his morals, character and reputation.

"(3). Such examiners, or the majority of them, have the same powers as the Superior Court to compel witnesses to appear and to answer under oath in the manner and under the penalties prescribed by the Court of Civil Procedure."

2. This Act shall come into force on the day of its sanction.

*Report by Mr. Languedoc.*

I regret to say I cannot concur in the report of the majority of the committee on examinations appointed by the General Council of the Bar at its meeting of the 23rd of February last, and the subject seems to me of such vital importance, that I feel it my duty to give herewith my reasons of dissent.

We are all agreed that it is essential to the existence of our body that it should not only retain in an implied manner, but actively exercise itself the power to recruit itself by the admission of new members. The question which divides us is as to whether or not examinations held in the universities and degrees obtained thereby should avail as tests of legal knowledge so as to relieve the Bar from the responsibility of further enquiry in the matter.

Following in the footsteps of the majority I shall first advert to the dissatisfaction felt in some quarters at the result of recent Bar examinations.

It is a subject which I have already had occasion to mention in annual reports to this council. Unfortunate candidates at all times are prone to believe themselves the victims of injustice, or of a bad system, and often get their friends and relatives to share this view. This is inevitable under any circumstances, but it must be borne in mind that since 1886 when the new charter came into operation, one of its chief objects was to effect a reform by raising the standard of legal education required for admission to the Bar. Examinations became at once more severe and very properly so. To carry out the reform a holocaust had to be offered, but the results were generally satisfactory. Complaints were only made by the unfortunates, but the successful students themselves (who after all knew better than any one else) invariably acknowledged the fairness of the examinations, and I can bear witness that they agreed with the examiners in the estimate of incapacity of their rejected comrades.

In the session of 1894, without any expression of opinion from the Bar and without deigning to afford it an opportunity to declare its views, at the request of the students, the Legislature abridged the term of study from a five and four to a four and three years' term. Students actually under indentures were given the benefit of this amendment.

The result was what might have been expected. At the examinations of July and January last, the ordinary number of men came up and in addition to them all those who in the usual course should have had to wait another year. The examiners had to deal with twice the number