

five per cent. of the true value. He points out, however, that under the statute there is no such margin permitted, and that an assessment at an actual value greater or less than its true actual value by thirty per cent. is *prima facie* evidence that the assessment was unjust or fraudulent.

Our attention has been called to a question of etiquette in reference to the practice of judges being robed whilst holding Division Courts, and also as to whether the Bar should not, when appearing in this Court, be in proper Court costume. Members of the bar at Niagara Falls have taken the matter up by calling the attention of their County Judge to their desire, subject to his approval, that both Judge and Bar should appear in their robes in the Division Court there. We are not in a position to speak definitely as to how far the very proper practice of judges appearing in their robes, not only in County Courts, but in Division Courts also, prevails throughout the Provinces, but it certainly does so very generally, not only in Courts held in the county town, but in the country Courts also. The custom is certainly one that should be followed in all cases. As to those appearing before them, there would be an apparent incongruity if one party should be represented by a barrister in "blacks" (as the Scotch say) and the other in homespun; and it must be remembered that Division Court litigation is largely conducted by agents and law students. The matter must necessarily be left to the joint action of the judges and the Bar in the various localities. We can only say that it is most desirable that the business of the Courts should be conducted with all dignity and decorum, and that every effort should be made to impress the public mind that everything connected with the administration of justice is most important and demands the utmost respect.

Mr. Thomas Hodgins, K.C., Master-in-Ordinary of the Supreme Court of Judicature for Ontario, has been appointed local Judge in Admiralty of the Toronto District, in the room and stead of His Honour Joseph E. McDougall, deceased. We congratulate the learned and erudite Master on this mark of confidence of his judicial capacity. That he will, in these added duties, shew the same industry and learning that has distinguished