

Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XLV.

JANUARY

Nos. 1 & 2.

LAWYERS AND LAW REFORM.

MEETING OF THE ONTARIO BAR ASSOCIATION.

The discussion on the subject of law reform which took place at the recent meeting of the Ontario Bar Association was in the main confined to criticisms of the resolutions of the Attorney-General passed at the last session of the House of Assembly for Ontario. It can scarcely be denied that these resolutions were framed at that time rather as an attempt to meet a supposed popular demand originating with and fomented by certain sections of the lay press, than to formulate a well-thought-out scheme for the simplification of practice and procedure and the consequent lessening of delays and expense in litigation. The general result therefore cannot be said to be entirely adequate or satisfactory. As a further consequence of this inception of the resolutions many matters of more vital importance and more in need of reformation were not discussed at all, or only casually referred to. Upon the whole it may be said that the arguments adduced shewed that so far as the matters referred to in the resolutions were concerned there is no pressing necessity to make much change.

But to lawyers, as a class, this gathering was of interest as it indicated a dawning of a larger esprit de corps in the profession, and the recognition of the need of more coming together of individual members of it for greater cohesion not merely for the purpose of protecting the just rights of the profession, but for consultation as to the most efficient ways of securing the speedy administration of justice at the lowest cost compatible with efficiency, a result which is for the benefit of the country at large. The solidarity of the profession in reality makes for the good of the community, a proposition which the ignorant and prejudiced may scoff at, but which is