

life the individual solicitor has the confidence of his client. Which of us when there is a death in the family does not at once call in the family solicitor? There is no compulsion about it. We may, if we choose, prove the will ourselves and settle all the questions which arise without the aid of any lawyer. In public affairs, too, statesmen of every creed place unbounded and, as I submit, well deserved confidence in the legal profession. A glance at the statute book and, in particular, at the Acts which have appeared there since the war will bear me out. In a lecture on "The War and the Law," which he recently delivered at the London University, Lord Scrutton said:

"Later statutes have extended the powers of the courts very much, and impose very difficult tasks on their discretion. They may postpone the satisfaction of his liabilities by a soldier, determine a soldier's tenancy of premises, prevent a landlord from raising rent or a mortgagee from enforcing a mortgage, and so on, and the courts have been left by Parliament to answer the many riddles which have resulted. Generally speaking, the judges are empowered to make any alterations they may think right in any legal obligations, to do justice to the peculiar circumstances of the case as caused by the war. They are given a free hand, with no guidance as to the principles they shall apply. It is not for the judges to complain of the confidence which the Legislature and the public appear to repose in them, but it is one of the many inconsistencies of British character which puzzle foreigners that they should find, on the one hand, an all-wise press and an approving public denouncing the predominance of lawyers in the Government of the nation; and on the other hand, a puzzled Parliament heaping on to the unfettered discretion of these very lawyers the task of settling every difficulty caused in every kind of business during the war. At intervals during the war the ill-omened word "prerogative" appears in the arguments of representatives of the Crown, to justify the action of officials and departments. The rights of the Executive in time of war, which may be of great importance to the safety of the nation, are in danger of being stretched to justify official actions not authorised by Parliament, for which there is no immediate war necessity.