

whilst professional men, who alone should be appointed to such office, have been made beasts of burden in the collection, not merely of necessary sums for the administration of justice, but also of unnecessary amounts which go into the pockets of retired politicians for whom it was convenient to provide comfortable incomes at the public expense.

With scarcely an exception, the registrars throughout the Province are perfectly innocent of any knowledge of law, conveyancing, or titles, and many of them know now just as much of their duties as they did when first appointed; the practical work of their offices, in many cases, notably in the city of Toronto, falling on deputies. Such registrars are, in fact, simply figureheads, whose pleasant duty it is to draw their salaries and sign a few returns which have been prepared for them, devoting the rest of their time to their private business, or other pursuits.

As regards the emoluments of those who are paid for doing nothing, one of the registrars received, in one year, over \$18,000 to his own use. This was an exceptional case, but it shows the vice of the system. Others receive now, even in these abnormally depressed times, from \$2,000 to \$3,500, for which some of them do no work whatsoever. The money thus used would very properly go to the reduction of fees which are admittedly excessive. We note, in connection with this, that an Act has been again introduced doing away with the necessity of copying mortgages in full in the registry books, thus reducing the cost of registration. This is a step in the right direction. Searches are now charged for at exorbitant rates. Take, for example, a search on a parcel of land which has been divided into a number of small lots. It is occasionally necessary to search as to the whole block. Fees are exacted for a search on each parcel, though perhaps the whole block remains as originally laid out. The fact is, there should be no charge for searches at all. In making a search, the work of the office is done by a boy handing out a book to the applicant, the boy's services being well paid by the registrar at the rate of \$4 a week.

It is, we presume, outside of "practical politics" to expect it, but there can be no question that registrars should, in every case, be professional men of good standing, who would devote their whole time to the duties of their office, and do the work