earner he may be, at least $150. Under this scheme it ought not to cost him more than $25.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: May I tell you, Mr. Reilley, that about 1931 the Manitoba Legislature passed a somewhat similar amendment. It enables a poor man to apply to the county court, and there his application is disposed of summarily and at small expense. I presume this is somewhat the same provision?

Mr. REILLEY: I had not heard of that.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: It is in the 1930 or 1931 statutes of that province.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I suggest that we have pretty well covered the essentials. Mr. Reilley will always be available if we require his attendance again.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Yes.

Mr. Reilley then withdrew.

MEMORANDUM by MR. REILLEY

The new Bankruptcy Act embodies certain changes in principle and procedure. One of the most important changes in principle is that relating to decentralization of the Courts. Under Section 152 of the Bankruptcy Act heretofore the Superior Courts throughout the various provinces were vested with jurisdiction in bankruptcy matters. Under Section 157 it was left to the Chief Justices of each of such Courts "to appoint and assign such registrars, clerks and other officers in bankruptcy as is deemed necessary or expedient for the transaction or disposal of matters in respect of which power or jurisdiction is given by this Act and may prescribe or limit the territorial jurisdiction of any such registrar, clerk or any other officers". The powers thereby conferred have been exercised by the various Chief Justices in a very different manner. In some provinces the registrars, clerks or prothonotaries of the ordinary Civil Courts were appointed registrars in bankruptcy within their respective territorial jurisdictions. In other provinces the Chief Justice saw fit to appoint only one or a lesser number of such registrars, clerks or prothonotaries as registrars in bankruptcy with the result that all court proceedings had to be begun where the office of such registrar was located. The object of restricting such appointments obviously was to endeavour to have more uniformity in bankruptcy court proceedings.

From my observations of the operations of the Act during the last thirteen years since the office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy was established it would appear that it is desirable that bankruptcy courts be established on a basis more convenient to the public at large and that there is now no valid reason why bankruptcy matters could not be heard and disposed of in the same manner as the business of the ordinary Civil Courts is carried on. Judicial precedents have settled many of the uncertainties and ambiguities that arose naturally on the introduction of the Bankruptcy Act in 1920 and it is believed that is would be in the best interest of the bankruptcy administration that the facilities of all the Superior Courts throughout the Country be made available in bankruptcy matters. The Criminal Code, the Winding Up Act and other federal legislation are so administered within such Courts and there is no suggestion that it should be otherwise. It would seem not to be unreasonable that bankruptcy matters be dealt with in the same way. The intended change is that the registrars, clerks or prothonotaries within their respective judicial districts should hereafter be registrars in bankruptcy for all the purposes of the Bankruptcy Act.