

We publish in other places in this issue a variety of views as to the proposed changes in the constitution of the Courts and the administration of justice in Ontario. While we sympathize with those of the profession outside the City of Toronto who desire that so far as possible the legal work of a County should be done at the county town rather than in Toronto, we desire to urge upon them to consider very seriously whether the decentralization sought for and specially referred to in the memorandum of the Essex Law Association, would not in the end be highly injurious to Bench and Bar and to the best interests of the public.

As to the Division Courts, we are strongly of the opinion that they should not be interfered with, except for the purpose of reducing the Court fees. If necessary, have fewer Courts, and, therefore, fewer officers, with more work for each. There is no reason why the public should pay for the support of unnecessary officials. The difficulty is that as these are now appointed by the Government of the day instead of by the Judges, patronage would be lessened and this would be objected to by the politicians. Division Courts were intended to be and should remain as the poor man's Courts. An increase of jurisdiction would deprive them of that character and destroy their usefulness in that regard, without any compensating advantage. We are inclined to agree with one of the Law Associations in thinking that the above agitation for an increase of jurisdiction comes largely from the Division Court Clerks for their own purposes. And this carries us on to the further thought that if the profession had a rallying point, and were to combine to protect their rights as wisely and zealously as these and other organizations do there would be some chance for us; but unfortunately this is not the case.

The Hamilton Law Association in their answer to the Attorney-General makes what seems to us a very sensible suggestion, viz., that in view of the wide scope of the proposed amendment to the administration of the law a representative commission should be appointed to consider the whole question and to bring in a report to the Legislature. We have no doubt the Attorney-General will consider the matter very carefully, but there is no need of haste, and no one will be hurt if the matter lies over for