

One-half of this formerly went to the city under the rebate clause. The registrar loses the other half, and the Government the percentage on the net income by the amount by which it is reduced. As the ordinary staff has to be kept up for general work, the expenses remain the same as formerly, except the small outlay for copying. Even the most exacting economist, Patron or otherwise, could not reasonably expect a more effective means of reducing the revenue of these officials, if such reduction is deemed desirable. This will be somewhat made up by the increased allowance for searching original mortgages instead of the copies, but even then the reduction will be large in many offices.

Another measure which will have the effect of curtailing fees, and so reducing the incomes of the large agency firms in Toronto, is that providing for sittings of the High Court at London and Ottawa. A High Court judge is required to be in attendance at least one day of each week at these places to hear and dispose of all proceedings which may be heard and disposed of before a single judge in court, or by a judge in Chambers, but not business within the jurisdiction of the Master in Chambers or local judge. Provision is made for keeping an agency book at each of those cities, and doubtless many country solicitors will avail themselves of the opportunity of what may be thought a more speedy way of disposing of business. So far as this enactment tends towards decentralization, it is an evil, which the profession will some day realize more fully than at present. The above provisions do not come into effect until January next.

The June sittings of the High Court for York are abolished for this year, and also for future years, unless the judges deem it necessary to appoint a day for that purpose. This will, of course, depend on the state of business. The system of practically holding a continuous court here has rendered this step expedient, although, so far, it has not succeeded in clearing off the jury list. A number of jury cases entered for the last jury sittings are standing until the September court.

To those judges who believe in the doctrine of opening courts at daylight, the amendment limiting the time on the opening day to one o'clock in the afternoon will prove somewhat of an obstacle in the way of carrying out their wishes. In many of the outer counties, it is impossible for jurors and witnesses to reach the county town by ten or eleven o'clock in the morning,