

haps say that he should not wear any pants." Another insisted that the custom was an abomination and a relic of barbarism. The House seemed to agree with this for the second reading of the Bill was carried by a vote of 16 to 14. Sic transit gloria, "galeri"

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We are glad to see that the new Premier of Ontario takes exception, as we have frequently done, to the annual tinkering of statutes, notably, those affecting municipal law. In reference to the alleged unsatisfactory condition of this branch of the statute law of this Province he is reported to have said: "One remedy might be to allow no amendment oftener than once in four years. The difficulty is that if any township, or village or city suffers a little hardship from any section of the law, which might be an excellent piece of general legislation, the suffering municipality immediately introduces a Bill to amend the Municipal Act, and in order to remove its own disability, imposes a law on the whole Province."

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We are also glad to see that he is apparently not much impressed with the wisdom of the very questionable proposal to relieve municipalities from liability for damages resulting from accidents on highways, or to substitute for the ordinary system of legal procedure in such cases an assessment of damages by some municipal official. This, as it seems to us, would be a most crude and unwise proceeding. Why should not municipalities be liable if highways are kept in a dangerous condition? And what is to be gained by organizing some new Court for the trial of such cases? Arbitrations (except in some very special cases) are notoriously dilatory, uncertain, expensive and unsatisfactory. That the ordinary Courts of the country are considered to be more generally satisfactory than proceedings by arbitration is evidenced by the fact that the public very seldom resort to the latter. Arbitrations are very uncommon nowadays. Moreover, litigants will, as they always have done, employ trained advocates (otherwise known as "lawyers") to conduct their cases. Those persons who clamour most about expensive litigation, and who indulge most largely in foolish and ignorant talk about lawyers, are just as ready as others to fly to them for aid when they get into trouble.