

*RULES OF PRACTICE—ONTARIO.*

It was found desirable, in connection with the revision of the statutes of the Province of Ontario, to introduce some of the Rules of Practice into their appropriate places in the statutes affecting procedure in the Supreme Court and also to transfer some of the statutory provisions to the Rules. It was, therefore, necessary to have a careful revision of the existing Rules.

This task was very happily placed by the Attorney-General in the hands of Mr. Justice Middleton. No better selection could have been made, and the Bench, the Bar and litigants are to be congratulated that this matter was delivered to such a competent person. Mr. Justice Middleton undertook the task—a task involving much labour, and one which could only be accomplished satisfactorily by a person thoroughly familiar with the subject, and having an intelligent appreciation of what is needed to make the machinery of the Court run smoothly and with the least possible friction.

The learned Judge, having prepared a draft revision of the Rules and tariff of costs, has given to the Law Society and the profession of the Province of Ontario a most interesting summary of his views and the result of his labours in a letter, or paper, which will serve as an introduction to the revision. We have much pleasure in now giving this to our readers. They will note that any suggestions for changes will be considered; but after it has gone through the hands of one so pre-eminently fitted to deal with the matter, it is not likely that the work will need any change. The letter is as follows:—

“By the courtesy of the Attorney-General, I am permitted to submit my draft of these rules for criticism before reporting to him; and I am transmitting to you herewith the result of my labours for your perusal and consideration. If on perusal you find occasion, I shall be glad if you will, at your earliest convenience, communicate with me, so that any changes which may be deemed desirable may be made before I send my report to the Government.

“When the Judicature Act of 1881 was passed, a schedule of rules was also enacted, taken from the English Judicature Act of 1873. These rules did not purport to deal with the entire