

*DOMINION GOVERNMENT AID TO LAW ASSOCIATIONS.*

A deputation waited upon the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor-General last month to urge upon the Government the claims for Law Associations in the Province for some recognition at the hands of the Dominion Government.

The deputation was introduced by Mr. J. A. Gemmill; and Mr. W. F. Burton, of the Hamilton bar, laid the views of the deputation before the Ministers. He sketched for the ministers the history of the various Law Associations and the sources from which they derived their annual income, giving the history of the various applications which had been made to the Ontario Government for assistance, and which had been given upon the broad principle that "the gods help those who help themselves," and that the government considered it proper to furnish to the judges at assize towns the tools wherewith to facilitate the carrying on of the administration of justice.

It was admitted by the Minister of Justice that the Government made a grant to the law libraries of the North-West, and also to supplement the Supreme Court library; and it was urged by Colonel Macdonald, representing the Guelph Law Association, and others, that the Dominion Government might very properly do something in the way of supplementing the grant which the Ontario Government makes annually in this direction, but which is not sufficient to fully equip the libraries and make them as up-to-date as the trustees in many places would desire.

There was a large deputation of the Ottawa bar present, who strongly urged upon the Government the importance of giving effect to the request made, and it was suggested that the Dominion Government might properly make a grant to be expended for the purpose of supplying works on Criminal or Election law, which came peculiarly within the province of the Federal Government.

Mr. Mills and Mr. Fitzgerald appeared to evince much interest in the matter, and promised to consult with other members of the Government as to what measure of assistance might be given, and it is hoped that the Government may see its way to supplement the Provincial law associations by practical aid to the Associations which are doing useful and valuable work throughout the Province.

The result of a recent deputation to the Provincial Government in connection with the appropriation made by the Legislature in this direction has had a very satisfactory result in settling the principle upon which the money is to be divided, and the Attorney-General has very properly given effect to the contention urged before him, that the amount of the original grant should be divided equally among all the Associations in existence, and that the increased grant made by the Legislature should be divided upon a per capita basis. This is a very fair and equitable settlement of the matter