

sion of it, even in a purely legal publication involves, I think it desirable, when one of the prominent organs of the profession assumes that the Benchers have made no effort to aid their professional brethren in the matter referred to, that some idea, though necessarily a very imperfect one, should be given of what has been done by the bench.

As far back as 1881, a committee, of which the present Mr. Justice Moss was chairman, took up this question and endeavoured to find a solution of the difficulty, but after much trouble, diligent enquiry, and anxious consideration, was unable to recommend any course that would give the desired relief.

I was not aware of what had been done, and shortly after I had the honour of being elected a Bencher in 1891, being convinced of the hardship under which the profession laboured, because of the inroads made by the unlicensed conveyance upon what was properly legal business, I brought the matter before Convocation; the question received the *fullest* consideration from the other members of the bench, and a strong and representative committee was at once appointed of which I was named chairman. This committee immediately took steps to gain information from the various law associations and other likely sources, and on the 17th day of November, 1891, made the following interim report:

"Your committee finds that the matter referred to was considered by a committee appointed for that purpose in May, 1881, at which time much information was collected and various reports by such committee presented to the bench, of all of which your committee has had the benefit.

"Your committee is strongly of opinion that there are ample grounds for the complaints made, and believes that the members of the profession (especially those practising in the country) are entitled to protection in some form against the competition of persons outside the profession, who, without having been at any expense to qualify themselves for the work, or paid any fees to government or law society, prepare deeds and documents of various kinds, and do other work strictly within the province of members of the profession.

"A number of suggestions have been made to your committee, the following of which appear to be the most worthy of consideration:—

"1. Amend the Registry Act by enacting that every solicitor who draws any deed, mortgage, assignment, or instrument of any kind (except a will) affecting any interest in land in Ontario, shall endorse thereon the name of himself or of the firm of which he is a member, and such solicitor or firm shall be liable for any negligence that may occur in the preparation of such deed or other document. Further that no deed or other document (except a will) affecting any interest in land in Ontario shall be registered in any registry office unless and until the same has endorsed thereon the name of a practising solicitor or firm of solicitors in Ontario.