

THE OFFICE OF COUNTY JUDGE IN ONTARIO.

has power to deal with returning officers at such elections, acting partially, &c.

In cases of malfeasance of corporate officers he is required to make investigations as occasion arises.

The decision of disputes where wardens of adjoining counties are unable to agree respecting the maintenance of boundary lines, belongs to him.

If toll roads are in his county, and it is alleged that they are out of repair, he examines summarily into the matter, being invested with authority to act, in correction of the default.

Where persons refuse to deliver up public lands on the application of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, the County Judge may order the issue of process to give possession.

Where lands are required for a telegraph line, &c., he also makes orders as to the delivery of possession of them, and may take evidence as to, and determine the value of such lands.

And also where Railway Companies require land, and the owner is absent or unknown, the County Judge has important powers as to the determination of the value thereof and ordering possession either before or after the value is determined.

The County Judge has also power as to the conviction, fine and imprisonment of persons improperly withholding sheriffs' books, &c.: for enforcement of award in cases of dispute between masters and workmen: as to taking accounts, making enquiries and directing sales of the estate and interest charged with lien of mechanics. In respect to adverse claims for goods made upon carriers and other bailees, where the value does not exceed \$200, he is required to exercise interpleader powers for their determination.

In respect to alleged lunatics, the County Judge is required to examine and pronounce on their state of mind, to make order as to their maintenance, or direct

an issue in respect thereto, to make enquiries as to their estate, and sanction the sale of it when necessary.

A most important and onerous branch of his jurisdiction is in respect of the partition and sale of real estate; and the duties of the County Judge as "real representative" are frequently of a very difficult and laborious character.

To save the expense of resorting to the Superior Courts, a jurisdiction in ejectment was also given to the County Judge, as between landlord and tenant (it falls under this head). Trials under the Overholding Tenants' Act commonly involve as much time as the trial of an issue in ejectment, and the disposal of difficult questions of law and fact.

Under the recent Act for the improvement of water privileges, new and very large powers are granted to the County Judge, in the interests of material progress, viz: as to the entry on adjoining lands on application of the owner of water privileges, and to enable their utilization. Surveys and levels are to be made and taken under his direction, plans are prepared, and he makes orders respecting the matter.

Under the election laws he may require the clerk of the municipality to produce the assessment rolls and voters' lists before him, and upon a judicial examination may order corrections to be made in same.

In case of default by the clerk of a municipality respecting the voters' list the judge is required to examine into the matter, and summarily make order to enforce the completion and delivery of the list.

It will be noticed that the subjects under this head, Special and Peculiar Jurisdiction, are in nearly every case given to the County Judge for his sole adjudication; but it is not thought necessary to give a distinct head to subjects falling within the exclusive jurisdiction of the