

was strongly put by Mr. S. H. Blake to the Attorney-General when a deputation of the bar recently waited on the latter to remonstrate against the passing of the proposed bill. Mr. Christopher Robinson on the same occasion called attention to the question of appeals which, under the suggested system, would lead to the time of the High Court being largely taken up with the large crop of appeals which would surely grow therefrom. He also alluded to the unwisdom of placing the power of quashing by-laws and increased jurisdiction in matters affecting real estate, wills etc., in the hands of County Judges. As he pointed out, it is highly desirable that in matters such as these (and, in fact, as far as possible in all matters), there should be uniformity and certainty of decision. This uniformity and certainty is so overwhelmingly important that it should be the aim of all legislation affecting the administration of justice to obtain it even though it costs expense and trouble to do so. Theoretically there should be one central fountain of justice. This of course is not possible, but every step away from it is fraught with peril and loss.

Manifestly these desiderata are less and less attainable as business is distributed amongst a number of local judges, probably of less calibre than the High Court judges, with fewer advantages in the way of books, with the help of a local bar only, and with no brother judges to consult; and all this without any disparagement to either bench or bar. Many of the County judges have from time to time been quite equal to some of the judges on the Superior Court bench; and the leaders of the bar have largely been recruited from outside Toronto. To Barrie, Toronto owed the late D'Alton McCarthy and the present Mr. Justice Lount; to Dundas, the late B. B. Osler; to Cobourg, the late Mr. Justice Patterson; to London, the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas Division, and others who could be named. But the position of a local judge is really a difficult one. He lives in a comparatively small place where free criticism, otherwise so beneficial, would almost of necessity degenerate into unseemly wrangling—he is surrounded by local prejudices and petty scandals where everyone knows everyone else's business, and takes perhaps an undue interest in it—minor faults in the judge are unduly magnified—if he has personal peculiarities, or takes strong ground on any subject, even though in the right, these things are made much of to his detriment, etc., etc. All this tends to