

## FALSE ECONOMY—CITY REGISTRY OFFICE.

When "no judge is in town," to use a phrase common amongst Chamber men and agency clerks, the difficulty in the way of having business done is much greater. No reasonable man could expect a judge fatigued and worried with assize business to be able, even with the best wishes, to give any sufficient time to the consideration of matters, which, though often of great importance and requiring prompt attention and it may be much careful thought and research, must of necessity be postponed to the more pressing calls made upon him as judge of assize.

The consequences to the profession and suitors, to say nothing of the overworked judge, are most injurious, and the evil requires an immediate and sufficient remedy. The health of the judge is impaired by overwork, the profession are kept in a perpetual state of worry, cases are not properly attended to, decisions, if given at all, are given without the possibility of careful consideration, much business is entirely neglected, in many cases great hardship is inflicted upon innocent persons, the *habeas corpus* Act is practically suspended, fraudulent debtors remove themselves and their goods out of the Province, goods are wrongfully taken possession of and perhaps destroyed without redress, town agents come to grief with their principals in the country, and principals again with their clients. In fact things get into a state of "pi." The only person who seems to be the better of it is the clerk, who during this period makes a small fortune by "enlargements;" he, however, without much gratitude, complains that his life is rendered miserable by fierce enquiries as to whether there is a judge in Chambers, or if not, why not, or when there will be, or how otherwise.

The present state of things amounts to a nuisance which must sooner or later be abated, and now as to what appears to be the best means of doing this. Could it be done by a different arrangement as to the time of holding the different assizes? We think not—the time of the judges is so fully occupied with sittings in Term, in appeal, and in their respective courts, preparing and delivering judgments, holding assizes, sittings of the Heir and Divisee Commission, &c., that no other better arrangement could well be made. We do not think any reasonable man imagines that the judges have not enough to do at pre-

sent to keep their time fully occupied, or that a little less work and a little more leisure and time for research would be injurious to the public interests. If, therefore, the staff of judges is not large enough to do all the work that has to be done, the conclusion is obvious, namely, that it must be increased.

Some persons, without, we think, sufficient thought of the probable consequences, say—appoint a Chamber or a Practice judge, and thus remove the difficulty. Whilst agreeing with these views, so far as the appointment of another judge is concerned, we object to the appointment of any person as a *Practice judge only*. We could easily conceive that such a judge would by degrees and without knowing it make a practice of his own, his ideas would become contracted, and many other evils that we could name would, we think, be likely to arise from such an arrangement. A large and varied experience is absolutely necessary for the various questions that are perpetually coming before a judge in Chambers for adjudication. Each of the judges should have his share of the business belonging to the Bench in general, and that certainly includes Chamber business.

Whether there should be an additional judge of the Court of Queen's Bench or the Common Pleas, or both, or whether the additional judge should be styled and preside as the President of the Court of Appeal, though still taking his turn, more or less, at the work of the other judges, or in whatever way it may be thought best to arrange details, it is clear, we think, that something must be done, and that without delay, to facilitate the transaction of business in Chambers during the periods of which we have written.

## CITY REGISTRY OFFICE.

We have already called attention to the situation of affairs with reference to Chamber business. That is a grievance of which practitioners in Toronto, as well as those in the country, have just cause to complain. But there is another which exclusively affects the former, and this is the inconvenient and unreasonable distance that the City Registry Office is situated from the business part of the city.

How this has been tolerated so long we do not know, except that it is on the principle