

# The Barrister.

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## EDITORIAL.

### CONGESTED DOCKETS.

The matter of the blockade of business in the Court of Appeal and the lack of expedition in the determining of causes in Ontario still looms up prominently. Every now and again a murmur is heard, gradually subsides, and is then followed by the usual lull. But a reform like this, so much required and which can be easily effected, will spontaneously obtrude itself and nothing can keep it down.

Renewed interest has been aroused in the subject by the appearance of an open letter addressed to Sir Oliver Mowat which was published in the *Mail-Empire* on the 20th June. This communication, which is subscribed "Justitia," certainly makes out a good case for some sort of remedy, but in justice to all concerned we are not able to concur in some of the representations he makes, or in the strictures which he passes on the Attorney-General. We think the writer is astray from the facts

and far wide of the mark in his conclusions. We never understood the Judicature Act, 1895, as being designed to inoculate expedition or despatch into the Court of Appeal. A careful examination of the Act fails to reveal a line that could be regarded as a spur to urge on their lordships to speed or activity. But though the anonymous correspondent of the *Mail-Empire* seems to bark up the wrong tree, still he is not so far astray but that the real evil is seen in the very next bush. The appointment of one more Superior Court Judge could be tried, and if that should not suffice further appointments should be made till efficient and speedy despatch of business has been attained. Though it has not been a reproach to our Provincial Legislature the fact has been obvious that the lead of the English Parliament has been often waited for and very generally followed. This was very well for the early times when Ontario's civilization was in the incipient state, and