

observed but to see that justice is done. The average lawyer feels a distinct grievance if the trial Judge interposes in such a manner as to deprive him of a tactical advantage, a point of view which seems to be wholly American and not wholly creditable. There can be little doubt that the Courts which dispense with formality attain a higher percentage of substantial justice than results from formal trials. If the legal profession is to survive the strong present trend toward methods of trial which dispense with the services of counsel, it must demonstrate that the success of informal tribunals is attained in spite of and not because of the absence of professional assistance. There is room for a strong contention that such is the fact, and its test needs no reformed system of procedure. It can be made at any time when trial Judges are willing to assume the powers which they possess and appellate Judges cease to reverse just judgments for technical errors of procedure."

We learn from the *Ontario Gazette* that the practice has now become universal to appoint Notary Publics for some limited and often exceedingly small territory in some county of Ontario. It is difficult to see any necessity for this, and it leads to evils and inconveniences. If a Notary Public is sufficiently learned, reliable and respectable to be a Notary Public for a village, he ought to be equally so for the Province. But many of them are necessarily ignorant of their duties and unlettered. This practice savors of petty patronage and should cease. The only class of persons who should be appointed, with perhaps an occasional exception, are lawyers. Is this not a matter which should engage the attention of our lawyer friends in the House, and of those who are in some sense representatives of the profession, such as Law Societies, etc.? Men appointed in this haphazard way are very commonly men ignorant of their duties and with no sense of responsibility. They are a nuisance rather than a convenience; but, unfortunately, have political influence.