

The Bar has repeatedly asked the Government to prescribe such course, but without success. In 1885, the law officers of the Crown finally informed the Bar that this matter did not fall under the jurisdiction of the Government, and that it belonged to the Bar. The law was therefore changed in 1886, transferring to the General Council of the Bar the powers which, for twenty years, had belonged to the Crown and which, for twenty years, had remained a dead letter.

The General Council of the Bar, after having examined the course of law of each of the Faculties of Law and having consulted the said Faculties, passed a by-law to determine the number of lectures, to be followed by the students during three years, on each branch taught in the Universities. This by-law has only been in force since the first of January, 1887, and it is already admitted by all that it has had the most beneficial results, by obliging the students to follow the lectures more regularly, and the Universities to give their lectures in a more efficient manner. The bill now before the house, to take this power from the General Council, would have a disastrous effect on the teaching of the Law and on higher education in general. Therefore, your petitioners pray you, in the name of the public good and of the legal profession, not to take this right from the General Council.

III. According to the Bar Act of 1886, there exist six sections in the Province, each of which has its representatives in the General Council and on the Provincial Board of Examiners; it is also provided that the General Council may establish new sections, in the districts where there are at least thirty resident advocates. The establishment of a section gives the district a right to be represented in the General Council and on the Board of Examiners. Each of the existing sections has three representatives on the Board of Examiners and one or two representatives to the General Council. The Ottawa Bar, has not, according to the roll, the necessary number of members to be erected into a new section; moreover, it has never petitioned the General Council for that purpose. The Council protests against the intervention of the Legislature, with respect to the creation

of new sections beyond the provisions of the general Act. If the Ottawa Bar desires to establish a library for its own use, the existing law gives its members all the facilities for so doing, by forming themselves into a library association. It is not desirable for the general good that there should be too great a number of sections, and your petitioners respectfully submit that this exceptional law would create a dangerous precedent, resulting in subverting the organization of the Bar without any apparent benefit.

IV. As regards the private bills now before the Legislature for the admission of the petitioners to the practice of Law, without passing the examinations required for admission to study, the undersigned represent that the General Council has alone the control over examinations for admission to study and practice, and that the petitioners for such private bills should have applied to the General Council and set forth the reasons which they might have for not submitting to the common law. Formerly every section had the right to admit to the study and practice of law. This system was altered and the control of the examinations given to the General Council and to a single Board of Examiners for the Province, with the object:

1st. Of establishing a uniform standard throughout the Province and, consequently, one that would be fairer for all; 2nd. Of raising the level of classical and legal studies in the interest of the public and of the profession; 3rd. Of removing the examiners from local personal influences and the importunities of the relatives and friends of the candidates.

The present system gives general satisfaction and has already produced very good results.

The undersigned hope that your Honorable House will protect the profession against all attempts to infringe its constitution, rights and privileges, and that it will not listen to the recommendations which may be made by the councils of sections, which are always more or less subject to local and personal influences, and who are not charged with the examinations. Whenever favorable cases may occur in which an exception may be made to the general rule, the General Coun-