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THE COURTS OF CANADA AND THEIR NAMES.

With the multiplicity of jurisdictions in Canada and the consequent multiplicity of Courts, it is obviously a desirable thing that the various Courts of the various jurisdictions should be distinguished by names which will avoid confusion, and at the same time convey to the mind a knowledge of the nature of the Court and the jurisdiction it exercises. With this object in view it is evidently desirable that the names of Provincial Courts should be clearly and readily distinguishable from the Courts of the Dominion, and it is also obviously desirable that the Provincial Courts of similar jurisdiction in each Province should bear the like names; so that in each Province the Court of the like name should be known to have the like jurisdiction to that of every other Provincial Court of the same name.

Owing, however, to each Province having the power to assign names to its Provincial Courts, it has fallen out that each Province has decided to act independently and neither in concert with nor with regard to the views of the other Provinces of which the Dominion is composed, and as a result in almost every Province there is a different nomenclature of Provincial Courts.

In the Province of Ontario the old English system of several Courts of co-ordinate common law jurisdiction and the King's Bench and Common Pleas was originally adopted, supplemented subsequently by the creation of a Court of Chancery. With the adoption of the system of the Judicature Act the Province again followed English precedent, perhaps not sufficiently mindful of the different circumstances of our case. In England there could be no objection to, or conflict of names in, continuing the former Courts of Law and Equity in one "Supreme Court of Judicature;" but in Ontario the adoption of that name involved