

of the suspected type referred to by a German in one of our western towns, who, when asked whether there was a good criminal lawyer in his town, replied that they all thought they had one, but so far nobody had been able to prove it on him.

"III. The demand for changes in the law, popularly called Law Reform, is regularly agitated previous to an election and is seldom mentioned at any other time.

"Enquiry and some investigation has satisfied me that a demand for law reform amounts to nothing more in the popular mind than a complaint that litigation is too costly and that a change should be made, so that disputed claims might be litigated practically at nominal cost.

"So far as the work of the courts and the facilities afforded for speedy hearing are concerned, what was said by Mr. Justice Middleton in an address delivered by him to this Association in 1911, namely:—

" 'There is no congestion of business in our courts. Cases can be tried as soon as ready for trial. There are no arrears in any of our courts, either trial or appellate. Appeals can be heard practically as soon as set down, and speaking generally there is no delay between the hearing and judgment. That this is so in all courts, from the court of first instance to the court of last resort, indicates that as a whole our system is well balanced and efficient,' practically correctly describes the expedition with which trials and appeals are disposed of, the efficiency of the courts, and the state of the court calendar at the present time.

"Any delay in the disposal of an action or appeal cannot be charged to any alleged defect in the law. The trouble will probably be found with the litigant, his solicitor or counsel. It is well known to every lawyer that the least profitable and most worrying branch of his business is litigation. Litigants are often too anxious to fight with and for every advantage and only too ready to blame their legal warriors if they do not fight their quarrels according to the principle that everything is fair in war.