

a solicitor can earn in a litigated suit he must be prepared to disburse another dollar. This is certainly a very heavy outlay, and it is doubtful whether any other professional business is carried on on such disadvantageous terms.

Some interesting figures are to be gathered from the Surrogate Court returns, from which we learn that during the past year the value of the personalty devolving aggregated \$15,435,107.13, as against \$12,299,582.15 in 1889; and the value of the realty devolving under the Devolution of Estates Act aggregated \$4,679,177.56, as against \$3,773,939.47 in 1889; there being in both classes of property a very considerable increase in amount during the past year. We find that there were only 14 estates where the personalty was over \$100,000.

As an almost necessary result of the practical operation of the Devolution of Estates Act, the number of administration actions is dwindling away by degrees. In 1885 we find that in the outer counties 55 administration orders were made upon summary applications; in 1886 there were 62; in 1887 there were 50; in 1888, 42; in 1889 there were 33; and in 1890, 25. These returns of course do not include the city of Toronto, and therefore we are unable to see what has been the full extent of the falling off of this class of actions. The change in the law which has been effected by the Devolution of Estates Act we believe has been beneficial both to the profession and the public; and it is not often that it can be said of any legislation that it is beneficial to both the lay and professional classes of the community. It does not follow that because it is now possible to wind up estates without the necessity of an administration action that therefore the services of the lawyer can be dispensed with: his aid is almost invariably sought, and instead of having to lay out a dollar for every dollar he earns, he is able to earn just as much without having to lay out in disbursements anything like the same amount of money, and at the same time he has the satisfaction of presenting a much less heavy bill of costs to his client than he would have in the case of litigation.

Notwithstanding these crumbs of comfort, the fact cannot but occasionally present itself to the mind of the practitioner that, by reason of the constant influx of at least 100 new members every year into the ranks of the profession, the competition for business is constantly increasing, and its increase in bulk does not by any means keep pace with the increase in the numbers of the competitors.

JUDICIAL SALARIES.

We are glad that the leader of the Government has announced his intention of bringing in a measure next session to increase the salaries of the judges. It is to be hoped that he means business. There is no question as to what his own views are, but he sees difficulties in the way which his predecessor was unable to overcome. We trust Mr. Abbott may be more successful. We reproduce his remarks *in extenso*:

He says: "The subject of this discussion is certainly well worthy of the time that has been taken up, and the Government is very sensible, and has been for some time, of its importance and of the necessity of dealing with it.