

judges have insisted on stamps being put on such proceedings. I wrote to the Attorney-General, setting out the whole matter, and asking for instructions if you were to be deprived of these fees. The letter has never been answered, and I may say that I do not expect an answer, and until an answer is given I would say to every officer concerned that they are perfectly justified in personally appropriating such fees as heretofore. If it was found that owing to the action of the County Court Judges they could not get these fees, then I think it would be a matter to approach the Government on, and ask for a clause to be inserted in an Act restoring the right to take the fees.

The complaint appears to be universal among you, gentlemen, that your fees have been so reduced by the passing of the Act giving increased jurisdiction to the Division Courts as to almost make your offices undesirable, considering the restrictions attaching to the holding of them. It appears to me that a very effective remedy would be found for this if the clerks, in addition to their present duties, were to be made *ex-officio* Clerks of the Division Courts in their respective County Towns, as the Division Court Clerkships become vacant, and receive the emoluments now received by the Division Court Clerks, or let those fees be funded and have a substantial addition to their salaries made. This is merely a suggestion which I throw out for your consideration.

Division Court
Clerkships.

I must congratulate you on having survived a year's experience of the Judicature Act, considering the views taken of it when we last met; but I think that its actual working has shown it not only to be much less formidable than you expected, but also, that in the main, you have found it very beneficial in its features and carrying out, and that, on the whole, it has much simplified proceedings—though this would not be the case in some matters of detail, which we hope will in time be rectified by rules of Court, ample power having been given to the Court to make rules in that behalf.

Judicature Act

In considering the best course to be pursued at the present meeting, I have been in some doubt. I sometimes think that I have perhaps occupied too much of your time and attention, and have not left you sufficient time to carry out your own views and proceedings, and that it would be better for me at this meeting to leave the conduct of the proceedings much more in your own hands. With this view I will make my remaining remarks as short as possible.

Course to be
adopted.