

ELECTION OF BENCHERS.

All lovers of our profession will also hope that the result of the elections may show that the standards of merit and position will not fail "to be recognized by the profession at large as the true standard for election to its governing body." The intelligence, *esprit de corps* as well as business ability of the Bar of Ontario ought to keep them right in a matter of this kind, and we hope it may do so, despite the corroding influences of elective institutions.

It may not be amiss here, when the last Treasurer under the old system is giving his closing address, to give the names of those who have held the office up this time. The first that appears on the list is John White, in 1797. Then follow, generally chosen several years in succession and some returning again from time to time:—Robert Isaac Dey Grey, Angus Macdonell, Thomas Scott, D'Arcy Boulton, William Warren Baldwin, John Beverley Robinson, Henry John Boulton, George Ridout, Robert Baldwin Sullivan, Robert S. Jameson, Levis Peter Sherwood, William Henry Draper, James Edward Small, Robert Easton Burns, John Godfrey Spragge, Robert Baldwin, Sir James B. Macaulay, John Hillyard Cameron.

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As most of our readers are aware, two lists have been distributed amongst the profession, suggesting the names of various gentlemen as Benchers under the elective system: the first emanating from a meeting of some of the members of the Hamilton Bar, and the second from Toronto. Both lists contain many good names, and persons who doubtless possess the confidence of their brethren. But in view of the ground we have taken in this matter, we desire to make a few observations, which may assist in rectifying, and in some respects reconciling these lists; and out of both, with a few alterations, making one more acceptable to the bulk of the profession.

To begin with, we must not run away with the idea that there is any necessity or even possibility of representing the different sections of the country. The Society is to be looked to as a whole, irrespective of the incidental fact that the members of it are scattered in different parts of the Province, although proper deference must be paid to the feeling of the

country Bar in this respect. We must also keep in view the fact that the routine work of the Society must be done in Toronto, and that we cannot expect country Benchers to be as regular in their attendance as Toronto men, especially as, when they do attend, they must do so at their own expense. Nor should the country Bar forget that all the *ex-officio* Benchers, except one, reside out of and east of Toronto.

Great surprise has been expressed on all sides, so far as the Hamilton list is concerned, at the selection of names from the Hamilton Bar itself; not of course arising from any objection to any of those who are on the list, but surprise that names which the Bar would have expected to have seen there, are absent. We trust that such names as George W. Burton, Miles O'Reilly and S. B. Freeman, have been omitted by inadvertence, for certainly there would seem every reason to suppose, if a selection has to be made from any one locality, that they would be elected in stead of their juniors, who appear on the list referred to.

Again, with reference to the Toronto list, one would expect to see Mr. Edward Blake's name; for if we have to make a selection between the brothers, the senior would naturally be chosen; but it is unnecessary further to particularise, nor is it pleasant to feel that we have to leave out any name when so many good ones present themselves; only thirty, however, can be elected, and we sincerely trust that the good sense and brotherly feeling of the members of the bar one to the other will prevent any thought of jealousy, and that all will get the credit for voting for those whom they conscientiously believe will individually and collectively be the best fitted, from a combination of qualities, to form the governing body of the Law Society.

It may not occur to some, and we therefore take the liberty of reminding them, that business capacity, and spare time to attend to Law Society business are important elements for consideration, and should be kept in view in this selection of Benchers.

We publish the following list at the suggestion of several members of the Bar who could not attend the meeting here, and of some of the country Bar, who have taken an interest in the matter, and who do not altogether approve of the lists that have been sent out;