

judges at present is a matter of great importance, and should be considered. The expense to the Government should also be seriously considered, and if the system is to be continued, he thought some effort should be made to bunch the cases. Any case of little importance, and requiring immediate attention, could be settled at Toronto at very trifling expense. In concluding, he said the judges are willing to do their duty, but thought the profession should consider the time and expense incurred by the present system.

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION.

The annual session of the Canadian Bar Association opened at Dalhousie University, Halifax, on August 31st, when Mr. J. E. Robidoux, Provincial Secretary of Quebec, and president of the society, delivered a long address on the objects of the organization and its importance to the Dominion generally. Mr. C. S. Harrington, of the Halifax bar, also spoke. An address of welcome to the members of the Bar Association and the members of the Behring Sea Claims Commission was delivered by Lieutenant-Governor Daly, who was especially happy in his effort. Hon. Don M. Dickinson made an eloquent and felicitous reply, which evoked the most enthusiastic applause. A large number of lawyers were present, and Judges King, Putnam, Townsend, Ritchie and Henry occupied seats on the platform.

LAW STAMPS.

A case which exemplifies the injustice of the present law stamp tax, which the legal profession are in spite of themselves forced to collect, is that of *Ostrom v. Sils* recently before the Ontario Court of Appeal. It was an action for alleged obstruction of a watercourse the existence of which is negated by the decision

of that Court which held that the damage was occasioned by surface water. It was said that \$40 would have originally settled the cause of action and was a fair estimate of the amount involved. The litigation has proceeded at considerable length and, as was remarked by Mr. Justice Moss in delivering his judgment, there has been nothing short in the case but the temper of the parties. In the endeavor to obtain justice through the courts the parties have had to pay not only for their lawyer's services, but for law stamps to an amount in excess of \$100, the proceeds of which go to the Provincial Government. If the exigencies of our political economy will not allow of the making of our courts of justice free, there should at least be some modification of the Government tax to compare more favorably with the amount involved. At present the workman's case under the employer's liability law for \$300 damages for personal injuries is taxed as heavily as the foreclosure of a million dollar mortgage.

CURBSTONE LAWYERS.

Among the lawyers of all large cities there are a great many attorneys who have offices and yet never do much in the way of practising their profession. There are others who apparently have considerable business who have never been known to have an office. Some of these curbstone lawyers do business for years, carrying their library and "office" files in their well worn high hats. When the canvass is made for the legal directory the curbstone lawyer will usually glibly locate himself in one of the well known down town office buildings. The canvasser, however, is generally acquainted with the man who has simply the city for his professional address and the attorney's directory seldom sets him down as the occupant of a building with an elevator service.