

Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XLIV.

FEBRUARY 15.

NO. 4.

LAW REFORM IN ONTARIO.

The Attorney-General of Ontario has by his resolution, quoted hereafter, signified his intention of dealing with the much discussed subject of law reform. More than a year ago this was promised, but we do not quarrel with the delay, for the subject is one that should receive most careful consideration and only be dealt with after due deliberation. The proposed measure has not yet been given in detail; but we have it rough hewn in the resolution referred to.

We trust, however, that the attention it may receive will not be in the spirit indicated in a leading daily paper which said it had discovered in law reform "a programme to fight for." The same journal also says the present system is "a conspicuous and ignominious failure and possesses nothing sacred or even dignified in its decrepitude." It seems odd that in 1902 the same journal which uses this extravagant language congratulated the country on the condition of its legal procedure in the words following:—"The suitor no longer spends half a fortune with no better result than to find out that he is in the wrong Court; the best talent of the legal profession is no longer wasted in sharp practice and scientific hair-splitting; multiplicity of actions has been discouraged in favour of expedition and directness, as well as completeness of remedies; and law and equity, so far as the administration of justice is concerned, have become synonymous terms."

What was so excellent in 1902 cannot be so bad in 1908; but it may be remarked that the "outs" were then in, and now the "ins" are out, which naturally accounts for the milk in the political cocoanut.

The matter, however, is too important to be made a mere football for party wrangles, and we have sufficient confidence in the