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EDITORIAL.

Bench and Bar in 1896.

Under the above heading the *Law Journal* gives a very interesting resume of what has been done or what has been left undone during 1896 in the English legal world. Applying the title of the article to Ontario we are safe in saying that little of special interest has occurred in legal circles in the province during the past year. At one time it was expected that the year would become famous in the annals of the profession by the publication of the new rules, in which radical changes would, it was thought, be introduced into the procedure of the Courts. The Rule Commission was engaged in preparing them before the beginning of the year, and for months past members of the profession have been asking one another and the members of the commission, When will the new rules be issued? But the year has been allowed to sink into the

past without very much being accomplished.

The commissioners were appointed to consolidate the rules of practice by 58 Vict. c. 13, s. 42, and 59 Vict. c. 18, s. 15, and on the 20th December last a draft of the proposed consolidation was issued for distribution amongst the profession and others, with a view to obtaining suggestions in regard to the consolidation and amendment of the rules. Mr. Thos. Langton, Q.C., is the secretary of the commission. The draft has been widely distributed, but we fail to see that much benefit can be expected by its circulation, nor do we expect that suggestions will come in very freely. The delay in issuing the new rules necessarily prevents the publication of the new edition of Holmstead and Langton's Practice and Procedure. The absence of this work inflicts a greater loss on the profession than that caused by the delay in issuing the rules themselves.