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EDITORIAL.

Turning Up New Ground.

This is our second article under the above caption. In our first, which appeared last month, it will be remembered that we spoke at some length in general terms upon the unsatisfactory conditions governing the legal profession in Ontario. In this article we will commence to be specific. The governing body of the Law Society of Upper Canada is an elective one. The law provides that every lawyer in good standing shall be allowed to vote at the election of Benchers, and that the thirty gentlemen who get the most votes shall be elected. The result of this is to make the Benchers what is called a responsible body; inasmuch as those who elect them can vote them out in the event of their rule not being satisfactory. Now, it is manifest that it is not possible for electors to judge of the conduct of their representatives unless they are allowed to be present at their deliberations

or have free access to their official acts. The Benchers, nevertheless, adopt a course which makes it impossible for their constituents to get more than an occasional glimpse at what is going on. Their deliberations are conducted behind closed doors. The curtain is drawn so close that one will sometimes wonder what can be the awful goings on which are so zealously covered up. You may go and ask the secretary of the society, a most estimable and gentlemanly official, but he will politely tell you that he is not allowed to reveal what goes on; he is not allowed to allow you to peruse the minutes of the meetings; and that no one is allowed to be present at meetings of the Benchers. The secretary, however, is sometimes allowed to give out any news that from its very nature must be given a semi-publicity. For instance, when four new examiners were appointed, it being necessary that