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REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE BAR.

The official report of the General Council of the Bar of Lower Canada, recently published, contains some particulars of interest. The report was submitted by Mr. G. DOUTRE, the Secretary-Treasurer, at a meeting held at Quebec on the 28th of May. Some of the leading points noticed are as follows: The Act respecting the Bar which came into force on the 15th of August, 1866, has already produced results beneficial to the profession. After the Act was passed, the General Council and Councils of Sections adopted by-laws, which were printed under the direction of the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. DOUTRE, and distributed among the members of the profession.

The next thing was to prepare the *tableau général* of advocates required by the new law. The Secretary-Treasurer was unable to obtain possession of the registers, and on going to Quebec in quest of them, was informed by the ex-Secretary that all the archives of the Bar up to 1864 had been destroyed by fire. The Government, however, was able to furnish a list of commissions granted from 1765 to 1849, and the various sections supplied the lists of admissions subsequent to 1849. A notice was issued requiring advocates whose diplomas had not been enregistered, to transmit them for enregistration forthwith. In reply to this notice 131 diplomas were received by the Secretary-Treasurer, but of course in consequence of the destruction of the registers, there was no means of ascertaining whether these 131 were all that had not been enregistered. The ex-Secretary, it appears, did not even put the General Council in possession of the register from 1864. Another obstacle that impeded the making of an accurate list was the difficulty of ascertaining what members of the profession had died, removed from the province, or ceased to practice. Under these circumstances, the list naturally contains the names of many who have either

left the country, or have entered upon other pursuits, and it is requested that gentlemen examining the list will apprise the Secretary-Treasurer of such changes.

The Report proceeds to give a table of the number of admissions each year from the cessation of Canada to the present day. The list is as follows:—before 1765, 10; in 1766, 4; 1767, 1; 1768, 1; 1771, 1; 1784, 1; 1785, 1; 1786, 1; 1787, 2; 1788, 1; 1789, 3; 1790, 1; 1791, 1; 1792, 1; 1794, 3; 1795, 1; 1796, 3; 1797, 3; 1798, 2; 1799, 4; 1800, 3; 1801, 5; 1802, 1; 1803, 5; 1804, 4; 1805, 2; 1806, 2; 1807, 4; 1808, 2; 1809, 3; 1810, 9; 1811, 8; 1812, 7; 1813, 3; 1814, 5; 1816, 5; 1817, 7; 1818, 6; 1819, 8; 1820, 5; 1821, 7; 1822, 19; 1823, 19; 1824, 15; 1825, 17; 1826, 12; 1827, 13; 1828, 20; 1829, 15; 1830, 19; 1831, 12; 1832, 16; 1833, 19; 1834, 13; 1835, 11; 1836, 17; 1837, 15; 1838, 14; 1839, 16; 1840, 18; 1841, 19; 1842, 18; 1843, 18; 1844, 19; 1845, 18; 1846, 21; 1847, 25; 1848, 32; 1849, 32; 1850, 29; 1851, 29; 1852, 21; 1853, 25; 1854, 20; 1855, 29; 1856, 15; 1857, 16; 1858, 22; 1859, 31; 1860, 32; 1861, 47; 1862, 55; 1863, 59; 1864, 52; 1865, 67; 1866, 47; 1867, 8; making a total of 1253.

The report points out the rapid increase from 1858 to 1865 and the decrease in 1866 and 1867, after the new law came into operation. "Les besoins de la population," says Mr. DOUTRE, in his report, "n'exigent pas un aussi grand nombre d'avocats. Comme le faisait remarquer un avocat français d'un grand mérite, M. DUPIN, les procès augmentent en raison même du nombre des avocats. Moins il y a d'avocats, moins il y aura de procès chicaniers et futiles qui ne naissent que par la nécessité de procurer de quoi vivre au surplus du nombre requis des avocats; moins il y a d'avocats plus il y a de désintéressement et d'honneur dans la profession; car alors les membres du Barreau peuvent suffire aux besoins de la population, et ils n'ont pas besoin d'accepter de ces procès qui déshonorent la profession en même temps qu'ils ruinent les familles.

"Si le Barreau veut être respecté, il doit être respectable. Il cesse de l'être dès qu'il cesse de se recruter exclusivement dans la