

appointments to the office of the Master of Titles, or Local Masters of Title, it would be undertaking risks which it is not justified in the public interest in assuming.

A registrar of deeds, if he possesses ordinary intelligence and is systematic and painstaking in the conduct of his office, may possibly carry on the business of his office without mishap, notwithstanding his want of knowledge of law; but a Master of Titles who has to administer the Torrens system of land transfer has a very different system to deal with, he is not merely a custodian of such deeds as may be tendered him for registration, but he has to pass on their legal sufficiency, and he is often called on in a quasi judicial character to consider documents presented to him for registration and questions arising thereon for which an accurate knowledge of law is indispensable. Mistakes by such a functionary may cause at any time heavy drafts on the Assurance Fund, and in case of that being exhausted, on the Provincial Exchequer. To appoint to such offices men without any legal training is to court disaster.

Quite apart from the very important consideration above referred to, one is at loss to know why the claims of professional men to positions which should, for the safety and convenience of the public, be filled by lawyers, have been ignored in the past, notably so by the late government in Ontario. One fails to see why a baker should be elected to superintend the important work connected with the granting of letters of administration, the proof of wills and such like as Registrar of a Surrogate Court, or farmers, grocers, or blacksmiths be chosen as Clerks of County Courts to decide on points of practice and tax costs, etc., with which matters they are totally unfamiliar. But the comical aspect of such appointments is not the most striking. If fairness to the legal profession is to be set aside surely the requirements of public business should not be overlooked. In all the matters above referred to legal training is not merely desirable, but it is essential to the proper discharge of the duties imposed.