

RE AMENDMENT TO SOLICITORS' ACT TO DISPENSE WITH ITEMIZED  
CHARGES IN SOLICITORS' BILLS.

Since the last meeting of the Association vigorous efforts were made to have statutory legislation enacted to do away with giving itemized charges in solicitor's bills, and the matter progressed so far that the bill, with the assent of the judges and of the Attorney-Generals, reached the final stage and only required its third reading to become law, but some misunderstanding took place between the Attorney-General and the leader of the opposition, Mr. Proudfoot, with the result that the bill did not become law. Your committee recommends that this matter be allowed to stand for the present, and that the legal profession rely upon the present decision of the Appellate Division with regard to bills of costs not requiring itemized charges and approving of a lump sum being charged in lieu thereof provided sufficient details are given in the bill. The committee was also able to procure a percentage being added to solicitors' costs in actions. This percentage was wholly inadequate, but it was better than nothing.

The committee recommends that a joint committee, composed of some of the judges, members of this Association and Benchers of the Law Society, be formed for the purpose of going into the question of costs payable to solicitors and fixing a more just allowance to the profession, not only with regard to costs between party and party, but also with regard to costs between solicitor and client, and that efforts should be made to accomplish this result.

RE PUBLIC TRUSTEE ACT.

As directed by this Association, a representative from the Ontario Bar Association, together with representatives from the Law Society and trust companies attended before the late Premier and late Attorney-General and put up strong opposition against the Act in so far as it sought to take over the general administration of estates by having the Public Trustee appointed executor under a will or administrator by the court, with the result that s. 10 of the Act was not enacted, and the statute as now passed only permits the Public Trustee to administer escheated estates and estates vested under the Charities Accounting Act of 1915.