

in England and in the Dominion, and we agree with the remark that the appointment was appropriately made public on the day when His Royal Highness accepted the recognition of the city of London for the great service he had rendered to the Empire by his visit to South Africa. The success of that tour is a proof of the qualities which the Duke and Duchess will bring to the discharge of their duties in this Dominion, and we may rest assured that the same public spirit and unfailing tact which the Duke has shewn in other places will not be wanting in the important position which he is about to occupy, and we may be glad that one so wise and tactful as the Duke has shewn himself to be will represent our Sovereign in this important period of the Dominion's history.

LEGAL REFORMS.*

I have been asked to speak to you upon the subject of "Legal Reform." In the first place I desire to congratulate you upon the fact that there is comparatively little in this favoured land calling for reform. When one reads the reports of meetings of bodies akin to this in other lands and reads the periodical literature of the profession one comes to realise that we are not face to face with many problems that confront other countries.

There is no congestion of business in our courts. Cases can be tried as soon as ready for trial. There are no arrears in any of our courts, either trial or appellate. Appeals can be heard practically as soon as they are set down, and speaking generally there is no delay between hearing and judgment. That this is so in all our courts from the court of first instance to the court of last resort, indicates that as a whole our system is well balanced and efficient. "Some Measure of Law Reform" has become a political phrase, used with the view of influencing votes, in many instances, by those with little knowledge of the real working of our courts, and, when reduced from mere generality to the con-

*Address delivered by Hon. Mr. Justice Middleton, at the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Bar Association.