

Proceedings of Law Societies.

COUNTY OF YORK LAW ASSOCIATION.

THE Second Annual Meeting of the County of York Law Association was held in Convocation Hall at Osgoode Hall, on Monday the 6th of February, Mr. B. B. Osler, Q.C., in the chair. There was a large attendance of members.

The following report was then read to the meeting :—

To the Members of the County of York Law Association—

GENTLEMEN: The Trustees take pleasure in reporting that the affairs of the Association are in a very satisfactory condition, that the purposes laid down in the Memorandum of Incorporation are being accomplished, and that the Association lends a mode of promoting the general interests of the profession, which is of singular value.

At the last Annual Meeting a resolution was passed directing the Board to take measures to bring about a meeting of delegates of the various County Law Associations in the Province, for the purpose of discussing matters of general interest to the profession, and immediately after the meeting correspondence was opened with the view of bringing about such a conference.

Before, however, the details of this arrangement had been completed, the draft of the proposed Revised Rules was laid before the Committee on Legislation, and this draft contained so many features requiring careful consideration, that the Committee on Legislation of the Hamilton Law Association was invited to meet with our Committee, and take up the consideration of the draft Rules. This Joint Committee met, and was subsequently enlarged by inviting all the other Law Associations in the Province to send representatives to the meetings. Most of the other Associations were represented at the subsequent meetings of the Committee; and ultimately a report was made, setting forth the suggestions of the Committee, the details of which are, without doubt, well known to the members of this Association.

The result of the labours of this Committee has been recognized and freely adopted by the judges and by the Attorney-General, and the report has been recognized as fairly representing the opinions of the profession on the subject of the new Rules. The Trustees, in giving prominence to the work of the Committee, desire to point out that had it not been for the existence of the Law Associations it would have been impossible to obtain any representative expression of opinion from the Bar of the Province, nor could expression have been given to an opinion from the Bar which would have carried the weight the report of the Joint Committee admittedly bore.

One of the principal features proposed by the Joint Committee provided for fixing definitely the mode of trial before trial. On no point were opinions so strongly and vigorously expressed as upon this, and as the solution, a very strong recommendation was made to take away the absolute discretion of the trial judge.