

We noticed recently that in one of the Swiss Cantons it was said that an ordinance had been passed limiting the number of physicians in a particular city. Those who were authorized to practice were put upon a salary and were required to give their services gratuitously to those in need of them. Though we do not at present advocate such a scheme for lawyers nor see how it could be made workable, it is arguable that more real and effective good to the public would result therefrom than any changes in the existing practice. We feel confident that to again upset the practice of the Courts, and to leave the weightier matters to which we have referred unremedied, would only be holding out hopes which will never be realized, and probably create for litigants a possibility of being involved in even greater expense than they are at present.

Should the Provincial Government be sincerely desirous of cheapening litigation, one very obvious method would be the abolition of Court fees. It is absurd and anomalous that litigants should be called on to pay for the administration of justice or any part of it, and it is even more ridiculous that lawyers should be compelled to act as collectors of the tax thus imposed on litigants. The disbursements for fees in every bill of costs form a large portion of the whole amount, and the opprobrium attaching to a lawyer's bill is largely due to the fact that in it are included disbursements which ought rather to appear in the public accounts.

Chapter 332 of R.S.O. 1897, s. 2, declares that "The King shall sell to no man nor deny or defer to any man either justice or right," and yet no one can go into His Majesty's Courts to enforce any civil right or be brought there to defend his rights without being mulcted at every turn. This may not be "selling justice," but it looks very like it. Those who wish sincerely to cheapen law, and not merely to reduce the present inadequate emoluments of the legal profession, might very well address themselves to secure the enforcement of our own statute which embodies the provisions of Magna Charta.