

"At the last session an Act was passed (3-4 George V. (1913) Ch. 51, sec. 1) repealing paragraph (e) of section 2 of the Supreme Court Act and substituting—in so far as it affects the Province of Ontario—the following section therefor:—

"(e) 'Final judgment' means any judgment, rule, order or decision which determines in whole or in part any substantive right of any of the parties in controversy in any action, suit, cause or matter or other judicial proceeding.

"The Rules of Practice which were revised in 1897 were constantly added to until in the beginning of the year 1913, they numbered upwards of 1,300. Difficulties had developed in the working of these rules. Provisions overlapped owing to the fact, no doubt, that they were drawn from different sources, and perhaps also for the reason that they may have come from different hands, and the further reason that in the framing of the amending rules, the effect of other provisions or of statutory enactments were overlooked or not fully considered. As a rule a statute or set of rules, consisting of a collection of separate provisions from different sources by different persons, produces confusion and complications and general dissatisfaction.

"General dissatisfaction with the rules was expressed by the profession and by the judiciary, but no move was made to improve them until the matter was taken up by our Association. A large committee of our Association waited upon the Attorney-General, pointed out the necessity for a revision and consolidation of the Rules, and asked that a judge or small commission be appointed to revise and consolidate the rules and the forms and tariffs. Shortly after this conference, Hon. Mr. Justice Middleton was appointed to revise and consolidate the rules, forms and tariffs. Three members of the Association were appointed to confer with his Lordship from time to time to present the views of the profession as to suggested changes and additions to the rules. Mr. McAndrew, late Taxing Officer, was specially engaged and paid by the Association to confer with his Lordship with regard to the new tariff fees. These representatives were most kindly received and were given every oppor-