

EDITORIAL NOTES.

plaint of any person within three months from the committing of the offence, and the penalty shall be paid to the use of the Crown."

It is, of course, impossible to anticipate a judicial decision as to what will be held to be the "obscure language" referred to. But we presume that if any gentlemen returning home on any of the public ferries, after dining with his friends, were to observe that the scenery about Winnipeg was "tooral looral," when he should have said "truly rural," he would bring himself within the penalties of the statute, even though the evidence might not suffice to show that he was "disorderly or drunk"; and if any person who had heard the observation should, very properly, lodge a complaint thereof within three months, the offender would be liable to be fined five dollars. The temperance party must be exceedingly strong in the Legislature of Manitoba, when they thus render even the "obscure language" stage penal. It is, however, a little difficult to understand why obscure language on a public ferry should be regarded as any more culpable than obscure language off a public ferry. However, this may be the result of a compromise. It is, of course, very gratifying to know that in a new country generally supposed to contain many characters of questionable respectability, there is no necessity to provide against the use of *obscene* language, so common, unhappily, under like circumstances in other countries.

OUR DIVISION COURTS.

Below we give a few particulars respecting these Courts which may prove interesting to our readers. They are collected from the Inspector's Report for 1880. Out of the forty-two counties and districts we select the only four in which the number of suits entered exceeded 3,000 (exclusive of districts) and the four lowest:—

COUNTY.	No. of Suits Entered.	Judgment Summonses.	Amount of Claims.	Money paid into Court.	Suits under increased jurisdiction (to monss).	Jury trials.	Percentage of claims paid into Court.
YORK.....	5,751	1,300	237,900	70,402	463	18	nearly 30
WENTWORTH ..	4,821	127	109,023	44,016	177	2	over 40
WELLINGTON ..	3,421	208	116,303	45,534	148	6	over 39
SIMCOE	3,244	432	115,883	43,251	177	5	over 35
PRESCOTT & ..	756	26	21,523	6,131	22	0	over 28
RUSSELL.....	745	107	24,746	8,971	47	2	over 36
PEEL.....	684	82	22,814	9,183	31	2	over 40
HALTON	646	49	22,309	9,377	34	1	over 42

It will be seen from the above that about 36 cents comes into the clerk's hands for every dollar of the claim entered. This, however, can hardly be considered an accurate estimate of the value of the Courts for recovery of claims; for we have not taken into consideration (having no means of doing so), on the one hand, the number of suits settled before trial, or satisfied after judgment without payment into Court; nor, on the other hand, the moneys collected on transcripts from one Court to another.

The disproportion of judgment summonses to the number of suits entered is very noticeable. For instance, in the County of York, their appears to be nearly 4 to 1; while in the County of Wentworth the proportion is 38 to 1. It would be interesting to know how many debtors have been ordered to be committed under the old "91st clause." Every County Judge is now required to make