

SHORT-HAND REPORTERS.

any orders consequent thereon, shall bind the estate of such deceased person in the same manner in every respect as if there had been a duly appointed legal personal representative of such person, and such legal personal representative had been a party to the suit or proceeding, and had duly appeared and had submitted his rights and interest to the protection of the Court.

15. The Law Society may from time to time appoint shorthand reporters to attend the several Courts to take notes of the evidence and report the judgments and proceedings thereat; and the Judges of the Superior Courts may from time to time, by general rules or orders, prescribe a tariff of fees to be paid by parties to suits, actions, matters or other proceedings in said Courts, towards forming a fund to provide for the allowances or salaries of such short-hand reporters, and may from time to time prescribe the duties of such short-hand reporters as officers of the said Courts.

16. ["Superior Courts" to include the Court of Error and Appeal.]

17. The Practice Court constituted under section nine of chapter 10 of the Consolidated Statutes of Upper Canada is hereby abolished, but the powers and jurisdiction of the said Practice Court may be exercised by a Judge sitting in open Court, under section nineteen of the Administration of Justice Act, 1874.

18. Section 88 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1874, is hereby amended so as to read as follows:—

(88.) Except where the County Council of any County has made contracts for the printing of official advertisements in any newspaper, and except where a judge's order, or the execution creditor having a writ against lands in the Sheriff's office, directs the said Sheriff as to advertising the lands for sale under the same, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may direct through any department of the Government, that all Sheriff's advertisements and other legal and official advertisements shall be published in such newspapers as the said Lieutenant-Governor in Council may from time to time direct, but nothing in this clause shall apply to notices or advertisements required to appear in the *Ontario Gazette*, or to be published in public offices.

19. All inconsistent enactments are hereby repealed, and this Act shall be known and cited as the "Administration of Justice Act, 1876," and this Act and the Acts heretofore passed with a similar title shall be known and cited as the "Administration of Justice Acts."

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DURING last term a special committee, consisting of Messrs. J. D. Armour, Thomas Hodgins and D'Alton McCarthy, was appointed by the Benchers of the Law Society to consider a system of short-hand reporting in connection with the Courts. On the 28th December last they reported to the Benchers of the Law Society, in convocation assembled, as follows:—

1. That in 1860 a system of short-hand reporting was adopted by the courts in the state of New York, under which stenographers were appointed to each of the courts at a per diem allowance, which subsequently was altered for an annual allowance on a very liberal scale.

2. That subsequently a similar system was adopted in the states of Illinois and Maine, and it has been found to work so satisfactorily that the system is now being introduced into the courts of other states in the American Union.

3. That in 1871 an Act was passed by the Legislature of Quebec (35 Vict., cap. 6, sec. 10) authorizing the appointment of short-hand reporters in the courts of that Province. The stenographer there is engaged by the prothonotary in any case desired by the litigants, and the costs of the short-hand reporter's notes of the evidence are paid in law stamps, and go into the public treasury, the short-hand reporter receiving his fees from the prothonotary according to the number of folios. Your committee are informed that as the merits of the system have become known, and as a great saving of time to the courts has been effected by it, stenography is now being used in nearly every case of importance in that province.

4. In the Dominion Controverted Elections Act of 1874, authority is given to the Judge presiding at any election trial to employ a short-hand writer to take down the oral evidence given by witnesses at the trial, and the expense of such short-hand writer is made costs in the cause. A similar practice, your committee believe, has been adopted in election trials in England.

5. In many of the election trials held during this year, affecting the elections to the Legislative Assembly, short-hand reporters have been employed, and the Courts have been enabled to get through the trial more rapidly than in the