

admitted as a student and articled clerk at the age of sixteen, and by the Act Respecting Barristers (R. S. O. c. 179, s. 1, ss. 1), he must be of the age of twenty-one years before he can be called to the bar, or admitted to practice as a solicitor. Therefore, the student who puts in his four years under the proposed scheme, will have a year after its conclusion, and before he can enter into the work of his profession, in which he will have nothing to do.

No doubt that year could be profitably employed by a probationer so inclined. but are not the chances very great that, emerging from a period of enforced discipline, freed from the obligation of his articles, and with no settled aim or occupation, he will enter on the enjoyment of a year's holiday, which will mar many a promising career. Far wiser would it be for the Society to arrange that the whole period of five years, from the enrolment of the student to the call of the barrister, shall be spent, as at present, in the systematic acquirement of that knowledge, both practical and theoretical, which is to be his future stock-in-trade.

There are other objections to the proposed scheme which I could point out, but I find I have already trespassed too much upon your space. I would, however, in closing, humbly submit to the committee that the basis of their reform is a wrong one. Improvement, I freely admit, is desirable in the course both of the Society and the universities, but have they not each a distinct field of work which cannot be profitably amalgamated? To the Law Society is committed the charge of supplying such instruction as will fit a man for the practical work of the lawyer, be he barrister or solicitor, while to the university it would appear fitting to encourage the scientific study of the principles of law. Let each equip itself for its own work, and hold out its honours and rewards for proficiency in its own branch, and we shall then have skilled practitioners emanating from the one and learned authors from the other; but let us not, by making a jumble of the work of both, produce men of whom in a limited sense it may be said that they are "Jacks of all trades and masters of none." Why should the Law Society resort to any other institution for assistance in the objects of its incorporation? It has hitherto been an autonomous body. Is it wise to invite interference from outside? Surely out of its ample revenues more could be afforded for the purpose of legal instruction than the paltry salaries of the present lecturers! And if not, why should lawyers alone of the three learned professions expect to obtain their education for nothing? Why should not the law student, like his medical brethren, pay well for the lectures which he requires.

Yours, etc.,

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