

PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE COURTS OF ONTARIO.

The Essex Law Association in answer to the circular of the Attorney-General makes the following recommendations:—

1. Division Courts should have jurisdiction in all actions, matters and proceedings where the amount claimed, or the value of the subject matter involved, does not exceed \$200.00, exclusive of interest. These Courts should have power to grant all relief, legal or equitable, which may be afforded by the High Court, except in actions of slander, libel, false arrest and imprisonment, malicious prosecution, criminal conversation, seduction and breach of promise of marriage. Counsel fees should be allowed as between party and party when the amount recovered is \$50.00 or upwards, increasing according to a fixed scale.
2. The County Court and General Sessions should be merged in the High Court of Justice. County Court Judges to be Local Judges of the High Court for their respective counties. Such Local Judges to have exclusive jurisdiction in all actions, matters and proceedings brought in, or transferred to, the counties for which they are such Judges.
3. All actions, matters and proceedings in which the jurisdiction of the Division Court is excluded, should be brought, or instituted, in the High Court of Justice. Such actions, matters and proceedings should be tried, and all motions and applications therein be disposed of by the Local Judge for the County in which such actions are brought, or to which they are transferred. Such Local Judges should have power to grant all relief, legal or equitable, with respect to any matters arising in such actions, etc.
4. A resident Official Guardian should be appointed for each County with full power with respect to all infancy matters arising in his County.
5. Moneys should be payable into, or out of Court upon order of the Local Judge, in all matters depending in his County.
6. Two fixed sittings with a jury should be held each year in each County, each sitting to be continued until all the cases entered be disposed of, and be presided over by the Local Judge.
7. Non-jury cases to be tried as they may be made ready.
8. All Rules of Court should be passed upon and adopted by the Legislature before coming into force.
9. An appeal should lie from all judgments or orders, interlocutory or final, and should be determined upon legal principles.
10. All taxations, and the questions arising thereon, should be disposed of by the Local Taxing Officer, subject to appeal, and without reference to the Taxing Officer at Toronto.
11. Costs should follow the event.
12. Liberty should be given to the parties to make an agreement fixing remuneration in advance, but subject to the agreement being operative only upon approval by the Local Judge before the business be begun, otherwise the tariff to apply.

Reasons in support of the conclusions above arrived at are set forth at length, but want of space prevents us giving them in full. The memorandum concludes as follows:—

And we may say in closing that the members of the Essex Law Association are unanimous in their desire to have the present vicious system of centralizing legal business at Toronto abolished. They see no good reason why business which arises in their county should not be, in the first instance, disposed of in that county: and they think the time is