

*APPEALS IN ONTARIO.*

The last report of the Inspector of Legal Offices shews that during last year the total number of cases tried by judges of the High Court was 1,153. It also shews that there were 1,465 applications of various kinds made to judges of the High Court in Chambers and 949 in Weekly Court, and 544 in Divisional Court. The total number of appeals from judgments at trials to a Divisional Court was 180, and of these 130 were dismissed, 37 allowed, 10 varied and 3 not disposed.

It is said that the total number of appeals from Weekly Court and Chambers was only 68. Of these 52 were dismissed, 9 allowed and 5 varied, and 2 remained undisposed of. Out of the sum total of 544 cases heard by the Divisional Court (which includes the 180 appeals from judges at the trials) there were only 43 appeals to the Court of Appeal, and of these 23 were dismissed, 11 allowed, 3 varied, and 6 remained undisposed of. The appeals from judges at trials direct to the Court of Appeal numbered 62, and of these 28 were dismissed, 14 allowed, 8 varied, and 12 remained undisposed of. Out of a total of 1,153 cases tried, therefore, there were appeals in less than one-fourth, viz., 180 to Divisional Courts and 62 direct to the Court of Appeal, and of these appeals only 69 were successful, with 15 cases yet to be disposed of: and inasmuch as out of the whole number of cases heard by Divisional Courts there were altogether only 43 appeals to the Court of Appeal it is manifest that in very few cases indeed could there have been a double appeal.

This condition of affairs is far from shewing any urgent need for upsetting the present appellate procedure in Ontario, as is proposed to be done by the recent Act which awaits the Lieutenant-Governor's proclamation. It may be said, therefore, that the Government would be well advised if it suffered the Act in question to remain indefinitely in abeyance.

No dislocation of a judicial system, such as is proposed to be made by the recent statute, can possibly be accomplished without