

Court of Ontario. Over sixty-eight per cent. of the contested actions were disposed of by a Judge without a jury.

The local judges have co-ordinate jurisdiction with the judges of the Supreme Court of Ontario in the trial of all actions brought under the Mechanics and Wage-Earners' Lien Act, and apparently dispose of almost all of these actions in their own counties on a date specially fixed for such purpose.

Actions involving the taking of lengthy accounts are frequently referred to the local judges for adjudication.

The Dominion Act now requires that all local judges in all the provinces should possess the same qualifications as judges appointed to the Superior Courts, and when all the local judges throughout Canada have co-ordinate jurisdiction with the Superior Court judges in the trial of offences punishable with imprisonment for life, there seems no reason why the respective Legislative Assemblies should not confer co-ordinate jurisdiction on the local judges to try all actions in the Supreme Courts of the respective provinces.

Such procedure would permit of about seventy-five per cent. of all the contested actions in the Supreme Court of Ontario being tried by the local judges or Superior Court judges without a jury on dates specially fixed for such purpose, as soon as the pleadings are at issue, without any delay or loss of time and at a minimum cost to the parties concerned, as is now done under the Mechanics and Wage-Earners' Lien Act and the Criminal Code.

Three or four judges of the Superior Courts in each of the cities of Halifax, St. John, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver could be assigned to take the non-jury sittings in the respective cities, and the clerk of such respective courts could fix definite days for the trial of each action at least ten days before the date of such trial, and if some actions consumed more time than estimated, a sufficient number of Superior Court judges should be available to dispose of all the actions on the dates fixed by the clerk of such courts.

It seems absurd that litigants with their counsel and witnesses should have to hang around the non-jury sittings in some of the said cities for five or six days at enormous expense before