

free of the unfortunate condition of mind and heart which affects the client, often to the extent of blinding his eyes to the real facts.

Perhaps one of the most dangerous causes at work affecting the reputation of our Profession is the scheming for business. In most places particularly where there are large factories, electric railways and similar undertakings, involving great personal risk, there are always a certain number of lawyers who appear on the scene in company with the ambulance or the coroner. Men, not lawyers, have to my knowledge been employed by legal vultures, and have received a commission on bringing in the body dead or alive. Retainers are promptly obtained, and actions are brought again and again, on purely speculative grounds. Relying on the sympathy of a jury, defendants are put to heavy costs, with no chance of getting a dollar from the plaintiff, and with many chances in favour of a substantial verdict against them, particularly in actions against large corporations. I have often thought that the most bitter comment on the system of trying such cases is to be found in the Ontario Municipal Act, which in many cases now directs that the trial shall take place before a judge alone. And a still more sweeping condemnation of our practice is the Workmen's Compensation Act just come into force in Ontario, which now deals with a vast body of cases on the principle of insurance against accidents. If we could have continued the old experience of thirty or forty years ago with lawyers above suspicion, the jury system would still remain as it was intended to be—a bulwark against wrong-doing, and a tower of strength in the administration of justice. The soliciting of business in the manner I have indicated should disqualify any lawyer from ever practising again. And so with speculative litigation. Nothing is so destructive to the reputation of the solicitor, or to the legal profession generally, as the promoting and carrying on of cases on a purely speculative basis. It is unjust to the client, most dangerous to the community and absolutely demoralizing to our whole system of jurisprudence.