

observations point, it would be an extremely important part of the duties of a draftsman to call the attention of the legislature to any alterations which in his opinion would be productive of obscurity or inconsistency.

Specialists capable of performing the responsible and difficult work which has been outlined above can be secured only by the offer of a liberal remuneration. But salaries sufficiently large to attract barristers even of the highest standing would not be an excessive price to pay for services which would certainly obviate the necessity for a very considerable portion of the expensive litigation which is traceable under existing conditions to the defective drafting of statutes.

C. B. LABATT.

THE DEVOLUTION OF ESTATES ACT.

The very grave and serious questions which Mr. Betts raised in his paper published in this journal on December 1st last, seem to call for the serious attention of the legislature.

We may remind our readers that nearly all the difficulties he points out have been caused by the fatal departure from the fundamental principle of the Act as originally passed.

The plan of shifting and re-shifting the title to realty by omitting to register or by registering cautions was no part of the Act as originally passed. That is the result of tinkering.

It has been pointed out in this journal more than once that the original Act contemplated that in every case the title should be traced through the personal representative. The Act was beginning to work satisfactorily when at the instance of a country solicitor who happened to be a member of the legislature, it was fatally marred by grafting on it the old principle of a direct devolution of the estate from the testator or intestate to the beneficiaries.

The incorporation of this principle creates all the difficulties to which Mr. Betts refers. Is not the obvious course to retrace