

between political appointments and the struggle for an honest existence, handicapped by country conveyancers who are also private bankers, insurance agents, Division Court clerks, members of the Local Legislature, school teachers and tallow chandlers, it seems impossible, in many cases, to obtain a decent living by honest practice.

I would ask what right these invaders have to carry on two or three or half-a-dozen businesses at once, while solicitors are limited to one. The latter cannot keep private banks (for more reasons than one), be insurance agents, etc., and so it is apparently considered by some more dignified to appropriate a client's funds, or swindle and bluff him out of his cash, rather than live honestly by such degrading work. No wonder solicitors are disgusted with having to compete with pedagogues and cut rates—but then they cannot live decently and be honest. There are hundreds of these cases in Ontario, and will be hundreds more if something is not done at once. The one great remedy is the total prohibition of unlicensed conveyancers. Partial restriction is worse than useless, as seen since their restriction in Surrogate work, which they carry on the same as formerly, and I defy any ordinary country solicitor to secure the requirement for his profession, and rely on his practice alone for his living. The profit of litigation is eaten up by counsel and agent's fees, to say nothing of library expenses, Law Society fees, etc. His income must depend largely on the other branch, viz., conveyancing, and here he has every chance to starve. The temptation to do things which should never even be thought of by a member of an honorable profession is dangerously strong. But he must do these things, or else starve, or give up his profession, after years of study and expense; and give it up to benefit those who can live without it, who were never brought up to it and have been to no expense concerning it, but who must not be offended, as their votes are legion. It is hard for solicitors to keep their Enrolment Oath: "To act honorably and justly in all their dealings, and to do nothing unbecoming a member of so honorable a profession."

Poets sing of "dark, insidious men lengthening simple