

Your committee is strongly of opinion that there are ample grounds for the complaints made, and believes that the members of the profession (especially those practising in the country) are entitled to protection in some form against the competition of persons outside the profession who, without having been at any expense to qualify themselves for the work, or paid any fees to Government or Law Society, prepare deeds and documents of various kinds, and do other work strictly within the province of members of the profession.

A number of suggestions have been made to your committee, the following of which appear to be the most worthy of consideration :

(1) Amend the Registry Act by enacting that every solicitor who draws any deed, mortgage, assignment, or instrument of any kind (except a will), affecting any interest in land in Ontario, shall endorse thereon the name of himself, or of the firm of which he is a member, and such solicitor or firm shall be liable for any negligence that may occur in the preparation of such deed or other document. Further, that no deed or other document (except a will) affecting any interest in land in Ontario shall be registered in any registry office unless and until the same has endorsed thereon the name of a practising solicitor or firm of solicitors in Ontario.

(2) That there be legislation confining the work of conveyancing to notaries public, or enacting that no deed shall be recorded unless and until it has attached to the same the certificate of a notary public certifying that the same appeared to be duly executed and proved.

(3) That there be legislation for the purpose of incorporating or licensing conveyancers, by which all persons who have heretofore acted as conveyancers be granted a conveyancer's certificate or license upon application therefor within six months, and upon payment of a reasonable fee, followed by an annual fee thereafter, and that all other persons desiring to act or practise as conveyancers be required to pass an examination before such persons as the judges of the High Court might or shall direct, and to pay an annual fee.

Your committee, having duly considered these and other suggestions, is of opinion that the one numbered three is, viewing the prospect of legislation in the direction proposed, and the other circumstances surrounding this question, the only one likely to receive consideration from the Legislature, the only body who can regulate the subject, and your committee would therefore suggest that a committee be appointed to interview the Attorney-General, place the question before him, and urge that legislation of the character last suggested be passed.

Your committee has ascertained that Acts cognate in character to that suggested are in force in Ireland and Manitoba, and therefore ventures to think that if the matter is fairly placed before the Attorney-General it will receive his best consideration and be followed by legislative action calculated to afford relief to the profession.

Your committee annexes to this Report copies of the Imperial and Manitoba Acts above referred to.

17th November, 1891.

Imperial Act, 27 Victoria, chapter 8.

Manitoba Act, chapter 25, of 1881.

Ordered, that the debate on this Report be adjourned to the last sitting day of next Term.

Mr. Hoskin, from the Discipline Committee, reported that the matter of the complaint of Mr. Millar against Mr. Clarke was proceeded with, and pending the inquiry Sir Adam Wilson, a member of the committee, died, and that 'until the vacancy is filled it will be impossible to proceed with the inquiry.

The petition of Mr. Charles Millar, complaining of a letter by Mr. S. R. Clarke in the *World*, was read.

Mr. Aylesworth moved that the vacancy in the Discipline Committee be filled by the appointment of Mr. Proudfoot.—*Carried unanimously.*

Mr. Meredith moved that Mr. Millar's petition this day presented be considered on the first day of next Term.—*Carried.*