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The Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XXVII.

MARCH 16, 1891.

No. 5.

WE publish an article on the Division Courts System in Ontario. The writer has had great experience and is most competent to deal with the subject. He makes some valuable suggestions. We trust some of them will receive early attention from those in authority. As to others they are open to question and modification; but as all of them merit consideration, we shall be glad to hear from those of our friends who have especial familiarity with the working of the People's Court.

WE cannot but be amused, notwithstanding that it savours almost too much of the truth to be amusing, when our lively and independent contemporary, *The Western Law Times*, refers to the appointment, in the Maritime Provinces, of the last batch of Queen's Counsel, in these words, "We confess that we have grave misgivings as to the completeness of this list. We fear that if a proper and exhaustive search be made, there will yet be discovered—gathering clams by the sad sea waves, doubtless—at least two members of the Bar in the Maritime Provinces who have not had this 'greatness thrust upon them.' We invoke the sympathy of the public to their lonely state. Their situation is mournful in the extreme."

THE DIVISION COURTS SYSTEM IN ONTARIO.

After many years of experience and various changes and accretions of jurisdiction and otherwise, since the construction of the Division Courts, we find that in the year 1887, the whole of the various enactments were consolidated (C.S.O., c. 51), containing no less than 304 sections. Since this, amendments, or rather, changes, have been made at each of the three sessions of the Legislature, since the consolidation; and these will go on *ad infinitum*. Some of the provisions which remain on the statute book have been only partially acted upon, or are effete, although they still remain unrepealed

It is to be regretted that almost every member of the Legislature who chooses, brings in what is called an amendment of the Act, without proper revision and consideration on the part of the Government, much less by those who are acquainted with the workings of the system, and who might well be consulted as to the expediency or need of the measures proposed. Several of them have been so ill-considered as to lead to frequent embarrassment, and it is to be regretted that what has been aptly termed "the glaring eccentricities of Legislative activity," should be so frequently manifested, and obviously so, by the