

Sessions of the Peace, unless otherwise directed by a High Court Judge or by the Attorney-General. In this way much time spent by High Court Judges in trying cases of little importance would be saved.

Clearly whatever additional work can be disposed of by the County Court Judges to the satisfaction, both of the profession and the public, should be transferred to them and the time of the High Court Judges economized as far as possible, so as to leave them free for appellate work and for more important cases.

It has also been stated that the costs in County Court actions are excessive, the procedure being the same as that of the High Court, and it has been suggested that instead of taxed costs the judge should, in ordinary cases at any rate, allow a limited sum, having relation to the amount recovered and being within a maximum limit fixed by statute.

With a view to preparing a way for a full consideration of this important matter, during the last session of the Legislature the undersigned introduced a bill providing for the extension of County Court jurisdiction, and a good deal of discussion on the part of the legal profession and the law associations followed.

With the same object, the undersigned also at the last session of the Legislature introduced a bill entitled "An Act Respecting Agreements between Solicitors and their Clients." This bill, modelled upon a similar English enactment, provided that a solicitor may make an agreement in writing with his client respecting the amount and manner of payment for past or future services, whether as advocate, solicitor or conveyancer, under certain safeguards, as for example, that with respect to litigious business, the amount payable under the agreement is not to be received until the agreement has been examined and allowed by the Senior Taxing Officer, at Toronto, who may refer the matter for the opinion of a judge. Among other things it is provided that the agreement shall not affect the rights or remedies for the recovery of costs against the client by any other person. A simple procedure is provided for the enforcement of the agreement by summary application, for its cancellation if unfair and unreasonable and for the reopening of the matter under special circumstances and within a limited time. Special provision is made where the client acts in the capacity of guardian, trustee or committee for preventing unreasonable bargains by requiring that the agreement shall be first submitted to the Senior Taxing Officer, at Toronto, who may require the direction of a judge as to its disallowance in whole or in part. Solicitors are not to purchase any interest in contentious proceedings, but the agreement may stipulate for payment only in the event of success, or the amount of the remuneration may be made to depend upon the amount recovered. Authority is given solicitors to take security from clients for future fees, charges or disbursements to be ascertained by taxation or otherwise.

My object in sending out this letter is to obtain opinions upon the matter referred to from those whose views should have much weight, and I would be glad to have as early and as full a reply as possible."

The following is the memorandum submitted by the Association as their answer to the above letter :

"A very great desideratum in reference to the Division Courts, and in fact one of the main objects of their existence, is the rapid and inexpensive disposition of minor causes of litigation, and following on this, the opening and closing of the Court Sittings on the same day, thus avoiding the attendance of suitors and witnesses on a second or even later day, and