

system will make business brisk in an old and settled community. Professional friends of mine in Michigan complain as much of the decrease of business as the lawyers in Ontario. And why the preparation of bills of costs, if they are honest, and represent value given to the employer, should be repulsive, I cannot understand; and, under the pruning knife of the taxing master extravagant bills take a form more consistent with the honor of the profession.

Under the practical working of the American system I have seen a number of salient points which may be worth considering: (1) That small claims are to a far greater extent thrown away than under our system, for the attorney's bill is sure, and there is no chance for recoupment even if the collections are made. (2) Wealthy men and large corporations enjoy practical immunity as against poor men. Their lawyers are engaged by the year, the length of the litigation does not entail upon them any more expense, and the poor litigant is taken as of course from court to court on appeal, till his victory is a barren one in the end. (3) The large increase in the number of appeals which has kept the United States Supreme Court in arrears for years, and has caused the formation and organization of the Circuit Courts of Appeal, and which caused the Supreme Court of a comparatively small State as that of Washington, to shed reports at the rate of three or more volumes per year. (4) The large increase of contingent fee business which introduces into the profession a tone which, to say the least, does not tend to elevate it. (5) The certainty of paying expenses on both sides, if unsuccessful, is a deterrent from frivolous interlocutory proceedings. And (6) although it may be in the interest of the profession to increase litigation, can it be said to be in the interest of the public at large to do so, by removing the penalty which now falls on the unsuccessful litigant for the benefit of the successful one?

I feel sure that the more experience any one has with the system suggested by Mr. Blanchard, the more he will appreciate our own, both for the public and for the profession.

R. L. REID.

New Westminster, B.C.