

the Reception Room of the Parliament Buildings, where Cabinet Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, and several members of the Legislature, were our guests; the fourth, on 19th August, at Cobourg; and the fifth on 19th November, at Dunnings Hotel, in Toronto. All of these meetings were well attended by members resident in Toronto and elsewhere. At all of these meetings not the least pleasant feature was the social part, and I cordially concur in the sentiments so well expressed by Hon. Mr. Justice Hodgins in his address as President in April, 1910:—

“There is indeed great need for a closer drawing together of the members of the Bar, not only for the sake of the common interests of our strenuous life, but also so that we may not entirely lose what is the greatest charm connected with practice of the law, the intimate companionship of congenial minds and the enjoyment of the lighter and more social side of our incomparable though jealous profession.”

During the past year the new Surrogate Court tariff of fees has been adopted, and some progress has been made with the revision of the rules relating to procedure in the Surrogate Courts. The draft of these rules as submitted to our Executive is somewhat of a disappointment, however, as the work indicated a revision without simplification. The Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1914, have come to us as a great relief, for which we are grateful.

The trial of divorce cases, which has been the subject of much debate at several of our annual meetings, was discussed in Parliament on the resolution of Mr. W. B. Northrup, K.C., M.P., “That the same should be taken into immediate consideration by the Government with a view to reform during the present session.”

Many influential members, in addition to the mover of the resolution and the Prime Minister, endorsed the resolution, but the result makes it evident, I think, that if our Courts are ever to have jurisdiction to try divorce cases, as is done in several of the Provinces, the reform must be obtained with the aid of our Legislature.

During the year, invitations were extended to our Association