

DIVISION COURT CLERKS' ASSOCIATION.

DIVISION COURTS.

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EARLY in this year an association was formed by a number of the Division Court clerks in Ontario, having for its object the protection of their body, and the furtherance of the interests of the Division Courts; and having in view, amongst other matters, the desirability of securing uniformity in practice, and settling difficulties arising in the interpretation of the tariff. Questions arising under this tariff have often proved sources of irritation and vexation, and the desirability of a uniform practice in all the Courts goes without saying. It was also thought that the result of the clerks getting together for consultation from time to time might be some suggestions to the Legislature in reference to changes in the law which would facilitate the administration of justice in these Courts.

We have received from the secretary of the association, and are happy to make space in our columns for the minutes of the last meeting of the association as follows:—

Minutes of Special Meeting of Division Court Clerks' Association of Ontario, held at Court House, in the City of Toronto, on Tuesday, the 14th September, 1886.

Present—R. W. Errett, Esq., President; J. McIntosh, Esq., 1st Vice-President; W. G. Fraser, Esq., 2nd Vice-President; and Hy. Jennings, Secretary-Treasurer, with about fifty members.

The President took the Chair, and called the meeting to order, at 2.15 p.m.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary then read a number of letters from members of the association giving reasons for their non-attendance.

His Honor Judge Sinclair was then introduced by the President, and gave a most interesting address, in which he complimented the association on its success so far, and predicted a happy future for it. He said that he considered it a move in the right direction, as he considered that the Division Court Clerks were, in his opinion, one of the principal factors in the administration of the laws of the country. He also stated that he had been somewhat taken by surprise by the asking of his opinions on several points which had been submitted to this meeting, and that he would be very happy to give his opinions as far as he could; but would not undertake to reply to them finally here,

as some of them required looking into, but that at the same time he would make this offer that, if these or any questions were submitted to him through the medium of the association by the hands of the President or Secretary, he would be happy to reply to them in writing, but would not undertake to answer any individual correspondence. He also suggested the great advisability of the association having a good Executive Committee to bring before the Government and Board of County Judges any suggestions that might be deemed of importance to the Clerks as a whole, at the same time pointing out that the whole body of Clerks must be in unity together so as to have weight.

At the conclusion of his speech, a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to his Honor by the meeting, to which he replied in suitable terms. Several questions which had been forwarded to the Secretary were then given out and discussed.

Jas. Dickey, Esq., Inspector of Division Courts, then addressed the meeting, expressing his pleasure at being present, and corroborating the opinions expressed by his Honor Judge Sinclair, and giving it as his opinion that this and similar meetings would conduce most favourably towards a uniform understanding of the tariff and also procedure.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Dickey for his present kindness, as well as for the great courtesy and kindness he had shown to all Clerks since his appointment.

Mr. O'Brien, editor of the *Canada Law Journal*, was then introduced to the meeting, and made a happy and entertaining speech, expressing the most kindly feelings towards the association, and at the same time stating that he was prepared to make some arrangements whereby a space could be afforded the Clerks in the *Law Journal* for discussion and enquiries.

A vote of thanks was also tendered to Mr. O'Brien for his kind offer.

Several questions were then propounded and discussed upon relative fees, procedure and other matters.

Some accounts were presented and ordered to be paid.

The Executive Committee then presented draft of constitution and by-laws, which were discussed clause by clause, and, after some alterations had been made, were adopted. On motion, it was decided that the present officers should hold office until the next annual meeting in September, 1887. The Secretary was instructed to have copies of the by-laws and constitution printed and distributed, also copies of the minutes of this meeting.

HY. JENNINGS,
Secretary-Treasurer.

In accordance with the above suggestion, arrangements have been made to give space in each number of this journal or as often as occasion may require, for the publication of matters of interest to Division Court officers and those practising in these now important courts. Correspondents will kindly be as brief and pointed as possible as our space is limited.