

enormous advantage. He can dismiss one letter as irrelevant, read the portion of another which suits him, and surround the whole with an atmosphere favourable to his client. Of course a vigilant judge, having the letters before him, may see through the wiles of the advocate, and opposing counsel will endeavour to expose the fallacies by judicious interruption. But judges even in the House of Lords are only human. Although the letters are all printed and in front of them, they do not always read everything. Nor do they brook interruption of the counsel who is addressing them. A first impression easily formed may be difficult to dislodge. So in a case of this character he who has the first word has an enormous advantage.

The appellant can open the case in his own way. He is not called upon to read the judgments of the Courts of Appeal until his own good time; and he reads them in the appellant's atmosphere which he has himself created. The writer is to some extent talking of his own experience. He was recently concerned in a case on the above lines. It lasted three weeks in the Court of first instance and was then passed through three Courts of Appeal, the last being the House of Lords. In each case the side which had the first word came off victorious. No doubt justice was done in the long run but the moral is clear. Let not the litigant who is successful in the Court of Appeal begin to rejoice until the time within which an appeal to the Lords may be brought has passed by.

The report of the Inspector of Legal Offices for Ontario for last year has been issued. It contains matters of interest to the profession, who will be glad in this time of dearth of legal business to be reminded that the legal machine is still grinding out law, although so many of the profession have gone overseas. No class in the community has more bravely responded to the call of King and country than has the legal profession and, in proportion to their numbers, more lawyers have gone than any other class; and none have been so hard hit, not only financially but also in the sacrifices, even to the death, which they have made for their country.