

MECHANICS' LIEN LEGISLATION—DOMINION BAR SOCIETY.

So much for this kind of legislation. But as to the subject matter involved, probably the best thing to do would be to repeal the Mechanics' Lien Act *in toto*. The enactment is in itself unnecessary and illogical, the wording is obscure, and its provisions unintelligible and contradictory. The Act has resulted in more harm than good to the honest and prudent mechanic. The legislation on this subject, though following in a measure a somewhat similar law in some of the United States took its origin here, and probably there also, in an improper bid on the part of politicians for the votes of what is called the "working class." It is scarcely to be wondered at, under these circumstances, that a provision conceived in such a spirit, and so carelessly carried out should lead occasionally to results as unjust as they are absurd.

DOMINION BAR SOCIETY.

The following is a report taken from the *Halifax Citizen* of a meeting of the Nova Scotia Bar Society, specially called to consider the report of the committee appointed to promote the formation of a Dominion Bar Society. Their Honors, Judges Wilkins and Smith courteously adjourned the civil and criminal courts to permit a full attendance of Barristers.

The following report of the committee was read by the Secretary:

"NOVA SCOTIA BARRISTOR'S SOCIETY.

HALIFAX, Oct. 20th, 1876.

"Report of the Committee to whom was referred the formation of a Dominion Barrister's Society.

"Your Committee report that as soon as practicable after their appointment they prepared a circular on the subject of the proposed Society which they sent to the office-bearers of sister societies, and also to leading members of the Bar in the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and P. E. Island, there being no society yet organized in P. E. Island. The circular is printed in the *Law Journal* for October.

"That on the first of September one of the committee, Mr. James, having occasion to visit the Upper Provinces, took the opportunity, with the assent of the committee and of the council of this Society, to spend some time in visiting the parties to whom the circulars had been sent and other prominent members of the Bar, and advocating personally the expediency of forming the contemplated Association. That he was received as the delegate of this Society with marked kindness and distinction, and the object of his mission, after undergoing the most thorough discussion in all its aspects, was in every instance approved, and the greatest encouragement expressed in favor of the project—not only by the Bar, but many members of the Bench of the Upper Provinces. Official answers have not yet been received from the Law Societies of the Provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick, but the approbation of the scheme so uniformly expressed is sufficient to induce your committee to recommend that measures be continued to procure the formation and organization of the Society without delay.

"That it was the intention of your Committee to recommend the Society to invite the delegates from the Law Societies and other Barristers to assemble in Halifax next vacation to organize the Society, but the officers and leading members of the Societies in Ontario and Quebec, while they would gladly accept our invitations, urged strong reasons in favor of organizing the Society at Ottawa during the ensuing session of the Legislature. The reasons urged appear to your Committee sufficiently cogent to induce them to recommend that course; and if our Society shall consent, the Committee suggest that a general meeting of the new Society be held in Halifax, next July or August. That the meeting be made as numerous a meeting as possible of the Bar of the Dominion, and that provision be made for the reading of a series of able papers on legal subjects by leading members of the Bench and Bar of the Dominion. You Committee believe that such a meeting would be attended with invaluable results to the Bar, and the public of the Province and the Dominion.

"The Committee recommend that the meeting at Ottawa be called on the invitation of the Bar at Ottawa, the Law Society of Ontario, or the Law Society of the district of Montreal, to be followed by our invitation to be given at Ottawa for the meeting here in next vacation.

"The Law Society of Ontario has given the project the unanimous and hearty approval of their Benchers in Convocation, and favorable