

importance of the Surrogate Court of this County, including the City of Toronto, may be seen from the official figures.

The value of real estates passing in this County is not shewn in the Inspector's reports until 1901, when we find real and personal property figure up to \$7,133,930, which marks this Court as very exceptional in importance. The value of estates yearly disposed of seem to be fully four times greater than in any other county. The report shews the issue of nearly 900 documents, such as probates, letters of administration and of guardianship, etc. No mention is made of the number of estate accounts audited and passed upon, an important part of judicial duty, especially as it seems fully understood that the taking of accounts, or even the taxation of the simplest bill, are no part of the duty of the amiable Registrar.

The income of the Court, which exceeds \$11,000 for the year, after paying the Senior Judge his \$3,000, the Registrar \$2,250.00 above office expenses, and \$660 to each Junior Judge, left \$3,583 to go to the fee fund. It will be noted that all this came from the people of the county, the larger part from the city.

It has been strongly urged that there is ample work for one man to perform as Surrogate in this county, and that the plan of throwing this work on the County Court Judges is now out of date. For years past there has been dissatisfaction at the delays occasioned, especially in the auditing of accounts, and there is obviously much more important work that would be done in the office if it were filled as suggested—work which ought to be done by a Surrogate judge, but which has not been done hitherto, and which from want of time could not have been done. It is understood that several worthy members of the Bar feel sufficiently octopean to undertake all the duties and succeed to all the income of the late judge, but we doubt if this is in the public interest.

The appointment seems undoubtedly with the Ontario Government, and one in which city and county interests rather than individual interests should prevail.