

Bench and Bar

ONTARIO BAR ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The eleventh annual meeting of this Association was held at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, February 23, 1917. Owing to the war, the proceedings which have usually taken two days were condensed into one and the annual banquet was omitted.

The retiring President, Lieut.-Col. J. E. Farewell, K.C., gave an account of the proceedings of the past year and recounted many interesting experiences in connection with criminal matters arising from his experience as a County Attorney. Sir George Gibbon, K.C., Honorary President, also gave a short address.

Reports of the various committees were presented. That of Lieut.-Col. W. N. Fonton, K.C., Historian and Archivist of the Association, was read by Mr. Maclellan in Mr. Ponton's enforced absence. Further reference to this report will appear hereafter. Papers were also read by John S. Ewart, K.C., on the subject of Waiver, and by Hon. George Lynch-Staunton, K.C., on Company Law. We hope to give these to our readers in a subsequent issue.

The Committee on Criminal Law recommended three reforms as follows: (1) The payment of Crown witnesses attending preliminary enquiries or coroners' inquests. (2) That provision be made for calling and paying witnesses for the defence in murder trials. (3) That section 1140 of Criminal Code be amended so far as it relates to offences under sections 211, 212, and 215 B. At present prosecutions for such offences commence after the expiration of one year from the commission of the offence are barred. This should not be where the defendant's misconduct commenced at a period prior to the term of one year. A special committee was appointed to take these matters up with the Minister of Justice and the Attorney-General of Ontario.

The following resolutions were also passed: (1) That it is desirable to increase the fees payable to County Crown Attorneys for their services on prosecutions in Assize Courts. (2) That a committee be appointed to interview the Workmen's Compensation Board and discuss with them the question of having lawyers appear before the Board on behalf of injured workmen or their relatives. (3) That a committee be appointed to interview the Judges of the Supreme Court with a view to amend the