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Correspondence is invited on topics of interest to the trade, but we do not hold ourselves in any way responsible for the statements or opinions of those using our columns.

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All business and other correspondence should be addressed to

THE TRADER PUBLISHING CO.
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LAW REFORM.

ELSWHERE in this issue we publish under the above caption an article from the pen of Lieut.-Col. Geo. T. Denison, Police Magistrate of Toronto, on the necessity of reformation in our present system of settling disputes by law.

It will not be news to the readers of THE TRADER that we thoroughly endorse nearly everything that Col. Denison claims, for we have on more than one occasion in these columns voiced similar opinions editorially. The gallant colonel's description of the quibbles, quirks and delays of the present legal mode of procedure is not only amusing, but it is true to the life; more the pity. Any person who has experienced it and afterwards had the pleasure of perusing his lawyer's bill of costs from five to twenty pages, will be forced to the conclusion that Lieut.-Col. Denison's charges are not overdrawn, and that this is a real abuse that should be ventilated, and if possible remedied.

The concluding paragraph of the colonel's letter contains a very pertinent, and, we think, practical suggestion regarding the matter which is well worth considering. He says: "I think that the State should legislate so that the judges should

"decide disputes quickly and simply without formalities, and
"without regard to anything except the absolute justice in each
"case; that there should be only one appeal, which should be
"final; that musty precedents, perhaps the mistakes of men
"gone by, should not be worshipped or followed to create
"injustice.

"If the State did this, did away with all fees of every kind,
"and hired the lawyers at fixed salaries to assist the judges in
"bringing forward evidence, there is no occasion why disputes
"could not be settled in one-tenth of the time and at one-
"twentieth of the expense now incurred."

The real obstacle in our opinion that stands in the way of any measure of thorough law reform is the fact that a very large proportion of our legislators in both the Federal and Provincial Parliaments are lawyers, and it is to their personal interest to see that law is neither made too cheap or the procedure too simple. It is evident that if Lieut.-Col. Denison's ideas were carried out a very large reduction in law business would ensue, and their occupation would be seriously interfered with in many cases. Under these circumstances it is no wonder that the legal fraternity, as a rule, are averse to any changes which would either curtail the present procedure of law suits or cheapen the cost.

This matter will have to be dealt with sooner or later, but it will never be done thoroughly if left to the lawyers as has heretofore been the case. If it is to be done effectively merchants and manufacturers must take it up in earnest and force it through on up-to-date business lines, leaving to the lawyers only the work of putting their ideas into legal shape.

While lawyers are a necessity in every business community, their sphere should be confined as much as possible to preventing law suits instead of encouraging them, as is now unfortunately too often the case. This is now the guiding principle of many of the brightest and most successful lawyers in the Dominion, and were the practice made practically compulsory by the simplification of legal procedure as advocated by Lieut.-Col. Denison, the balance of the craft would have to adopt a similar course. That the result would make for the general good of the community goes without saying, and we trust therefore that the matter will not be allowed to rest here.

INSURANCE OF POSTAL PACKAGES.



E are glad to note that amongst the other matters taken up by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, is that of insurance by the Government of parcels sent by post.

As our readers know, although a person can register a package sent by Canadian parcel post, yet this registration carries with it no responsibility on the part of the Government to deliver the parcel other than that of common honesty, and the knowledge that failure to transmit safely, if common, would soon put an end to the system by destroying public confidence. All that the present registration system insures is that a careful record is bound to be kept and signatures given by every official through whose hands it passes, thus almost ensuring its speedy and careful delivery. If the parcel is lost, however, the