

Mr. Shepley reported in relation to the admission of English solicitors to practice in the Courts in Ontario as follows :

"Your Committee begs leave to report upon the subject of advising legislation respecting the admission of English solicitors to practice in the province of Ontario as follows :—1. Your Committee has carefully considered the correspondence between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the High Commissioner for Canada, the correspondence between the Department of Justice at Ottawa, and the Attorney-General's Department at Toronto ; the correspondence between the latter and the Society ; the draft Bill proposed to be submitted to the British Parliament upon the subject, and the various other letters and papers placed before your Committee, as well as the existing English legislation on the subject.

"2. In the opinion of your Committee it is not expedient to admit English solicitors to practice in this province, without requiring service and examination as at present. Your Committee is of opinion that at least one year's service, followed by examination as at present required, is necessary to the proper equipment of the English solicitor for practice in Ontario, having regard to the differences between the law of the province and the law of England.

"3. Your Committee points that the proposed Bill, even if it should be passed, places reciprocity entirely in the discretion of the British Government. Under the present English Statutes, as well as the proposed new Act, the application of the English legislation to any colony is entirely discretionary. The passage of any reciprocal measure by a Colonial legislature would open the door to the admission in the legislating colony of English solicitors, while the proposed English legislation would still leave the bringing into force of the English Act entirely discretionary as stated above. There is no obligation upon the British Government to pass the Order-in-Council at all, and should an order be passed, power is reserved to impose restrictions and conditions which might practically be prohibitive. There is also the power reserved to revoke any such Order-in-Council.

"4. For the foregoing reasons your Committee is of opinion that, pending the passage of the proposed Act, it is premature to discuss legislation here, and further, that in the absence of some assurance that the provisions of the English Act would be applied to this province upon a fair and equitable basis, the legislature of the province should not be approached with the view of relaxing the terms upon which English solicitors are now entitled to admission here."

The report was adopted and it was ordered that the same be transmitted to the Hon. the Attorney-General of Ontario, it being in response to his letter to the Treasurer on the subject.

Mr. Shepley was appointed the representative of the Law Society on the Senate of the University of Toronto.

Mr. Osler reported with respect to the publication of the proposed Consolidated Digest. The report and the letter of the Editor in connection therewith were ordered for consideration on June 29th.

Mr. Aylesworth, from the Library Committee, reported a regulation for closing the Library at 1 p.m. instead of 2 p.m. during the Long Vacation. Approved.

The letters of Mr. F. McMurray and Mr. J. H. Coburn complaining that Mr. T. H. Gilmour, who is not a barrister or solicitor of this Province, is advertising for law business in Rat Portage, were referred to the Discipline Committee.

Ordered that a Special Call of the Bench be made for Saturday, June 12th inst., at 10.30 a.m., to assemble on the occasion of the presentation of an address to the Hon. John Hawkins Hagarty.