

never ceased expressing my regret that the Bills of Exchange Summary Procedure Act was undercut in this country on the allegation that Order XIV replaced it—obviously not the case, as the onus of an affidavit was shifted from the debtor to the creditor—a material difference. I myself am a member of the London Chamber of Commerce, and I confess that I welcomed the idea of giving a trial to this scheme of arbitration, which had the benefit of highly-reputed sponsors. I may say personally that I should have preferred to have seen it, if possible, tacked on to the jurisdiction of that useful institution, the Mayor's Court. When it accidentally fell to my lot to state publicly that the Council of the Incorporated Law Society could not see their way to officially recommend the profession to father the chamber (a very different matter from individual adherence), the two positions taken up by me were so distinct and yet reconcilable, that I did not anticipate any misapprehension would arise. I am not concerned to-day in justifying the course taken at Manchester, but if any evidence were required of the foresight of the decision of the executive of our society to remain passive, it is to be found in the *coup de grâce* contained in a recent leading article in the *Times*, undoing its powerful support to the venture when launched, and favourably advocating the new scheme propounded by the judges themselves for dealing with the commercial legal business of the country.

To return to the more immediate object of my paper, I have already drawn attention to several points upon which I submit that foreign procedure may be contrasted advantageously with our own. In many respects, especially in regard to delay, we are better off than our neighbours. The Long Vacation is practically from August 1 to September 30 (a better interval to my mind, enabling one here to avoid the conflict of Bank Holiday), but adjournments at all times are granted on the most flimsy pretexts, and procrastination is occasionally insufferable. I think that in the comprehensiveness of the labours of an English solicitor (and the continuous hold which the Court has over him) we are far ahead of our friends across the Channel; but I certainly feel justified in suggesting that we may borrow some useful hints in commercial cases from a practice based upon the Code Napoléon, which has been in operation in many places on the Continent for the best part of a century.—*Francis K. Munton in Law Journal* (London).