

because there are too many in it, and too many of an inferior class. We have all heard the expression, "Well, we must live." When said by a lawyer, it implies much. Sometimes that the speaker mixes up his professional work with insurance or business agencies and cannot devote his time to the study of the law or careful practice of it, or sometimes that he resorts to methods which he himself knows are not creditable. How can the Bar or our provincial incorporated bodies exclude or winnow out such persons? As already suggested, by more careful scrutiny of the applicant's character, which should be of the highest, and by insisting upon more thorough educational tests, perhaps a longer course, and more careful supervision in their training. Some say that is discriminatory and unfair, and does not give to all young equal opportunity. It is deliberately discriminatory, for it is the intention to exclude the indifferent of character and education. Animals should not be permitted to deceive the public by a clothing which signifies protection for the people. But it is not unfair as alleged, for if unequal opportunity exists, it exists in the fact that some have not an even chance with others to prepare themselves to enter upon the study of the law.

What makes the outcry against our profession is that all its members do not approach that ideal or attain the needed qualifications. I have noticed that in American law magazines the statement that one cause of the superiority of the English barristers as a class over the American is that the former are almost all university men, the latter only a small percentage, and further, that a careful study of the subject shows that proportionately fewer judgments of well-educated or university men are reversed on appeal than of less broadly learned Judges. I do not vouch for the correctness of these statements.

Much as is the Association's ideal lawyer needed in active practice, he is more required for the well-being of our nation on the Bench. But there cannot be such on the Bench without being such at the Bar. The greatest curse that can be placed on any country is an ignorant, unfair, careless or corrupt judiciary.