

a one should not be debarred from asserting his rights merely by reason of his poverty; and indeed to the lay mind it must always seem an anomaly and tantamount to a denial of justice, that an appeal to the Court should so often involve the suitor in such a liability for costs as to amount to a practical prohibition to any prudent man engaging in a law suit, whether as plaintiff or defendant, if he can by any means avoid it.

But it is not only for the cost of the improved machinery that the suitor has to pay, but he has also to pay for getting it in running order. Such is the infirmity of human language, that no matter how carefully a statute or a rule of Court may be drawn, it is almost certain to admit of differences of interpretation, and judicial decision alone can determine which is the correct one. Judicial decisions, however, are not to be had for nothing— notices of motion have to be given, affidavits prepared and sworn, and then copied and filed, briefs made and counsel employed, on both sides, before the knotty point can be settled, and for all this the suitors have to pay. It is safe to say that almost every measure of law reform inevitably involves more or less of this expense before the legal meaning of the changed law or procedure is judicially settled. Then, to keep track of all these decisions which settle the meaning of the scheme of procedure laid down in the statutes and rules of Court, a necessarily very expensive book of practice is required, which, to be useful, must from time to time be republished with the additional cases both in the Provincial and in the English Courts. This involves a heavy tax on the legal profession at periodical intervals, and for all this they naturally and properly seek reimbursement from their clients in some way or other.

The result of all our legislation and of our efforts in pursuit of cheap law is to demonstrate that thus far it has proved a veritable "will o' the wisp," and we are no nearer to the desired object than we were fifty years ago; and indeed it may well be doubted whether law is one bit cheaper now than it was then.

There is an element in the case which the public and litigants never seem to consider, but which is nevertheless a most important one, and that is the fact that lawyers, like every other class