

The Barrister.

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TORONTO, APRIL, 1895.

MR. AWREY'S Bill amending the assessment Act so as to allow all vacant land of two acre lots and more in incorporated towns and cities to be assessed as farm lands, was the most astonishing piece of legislation ever passed by the Ontario Legislature. There is not probably another Legislature under the British flag that would have passed such an Act. There is now no doubt that there is a law for the rich and another for the poor.

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WE would advise the Government in clearing up the University to establish a Lectureship on pulls, and give scholarships in connection with this department,—as it is too bad that many brilliant young men are handicapped in the race of life in this province, owing to their imperfect knowledge of pulls. A man that has not a pull with the government or a corporation or a society now a-days is lamentably out of the race; you are liable to founder him to try and rush him into competition with the men who work the pull.

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It seems strange that a large body of men who, from their training,

should be keen and alive to their own interests, should sit idly by and see five per cent. cut up the other ninety-five. True, it has been done in other walks of life, but that was on account of the gross ignorance of the down-trodden; while in law that is not the reason. It would appear to arise from the fact that each one feels he can do nothing himself and so lets it go, while if they would only combine and form a Provincial Bar Association they would have no difficulty in righting many ills they are now suffering from. This want of combination, this keeping alone, is in no small degree making the profession Ishmaelite.

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WHILE hard times have probably affected all classes, we believe no class are suffering so much as lawyers to-day,—and after careful investigation, we are forced to the opinion that this is not due so much to the general state of trade as it is to their own lack of interest in legislation. It is probable that the incomes of ninety per cent. of the profession do not average \$600 a year, while fifteen years ago the average was about \$1,000. Since then the whole trend has been to simplify proceedings, and lessen the solicitor's fees and increase enormously the counsel fees—so that it has come to this at the present time that hundreds of solicitors throughout the country are working for less than bricklayers and carpenters, that they may thereby be able to feel and know that a few counsel in Ontario are receiving princely incomes.

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THE session has been unusually prolific in legislation on a variety of sub-