

ELECTIVE BENCHERS.

few who, in the House, have even the slightest knowledge of the subject.

The following is the Bill as introduced :—

Whereas, it is expedient that a change be made in the manner of the election of benchers of the Law Society, and petitions have been presented, praying for the same. Therefore, &c.

1. [Repeals Con. Stat. U. C. Cap. 23, s. 1.]

2. The present benchers shall hold office, and continue with all their duties and powers unimpaired until the first day of Hilary Term, 1872, as if the said fourth section had not been repealed; and all By-laws, resolutions, rules and regulations of the Law Society at present existing, or which shall be passed by the present benchers until the said first day of Hilary Term, 1872, except so far as the same are, or shall be inconsistent with this Act, shall remain in full force and effect until altered by the benchers to be appointed as hereinafter provided for.

3. On the first day of Hilary Term, 1872, the present benchers except as hereinafter provided, shall cease to hold office, and from and after that day the benchers of the Law Society, exclusive of *ex-officio* members, shall be thirty in number, to be elected as hereinafter provided.

4. The Attorney-General for the time being of the Province of Ontario, and all members of the Bar of Ontario, who shall have at any time held the office of Attorney-General for the Province of Ontario, or of Attorney-General or Solicitor-General for that part of the late Province of Canada, formerly Upper Canada, and any retired Judge or Judges of the Superior Courts of Law or Equity for the Province of Ontario, shall respectively *ex-officio* be Benchers of the Society.

5. Her Majesty's Counsel learned in the Law of the Bar of Ontario, shall elect from among themselves twelve persons to be Benchers of the said Law Society.

6. For the purpose of the election of the remaining eighteen Benchers, this Province shall be deemed to be divided into the five districts following :—

One comprising the Counties of Essex, Lambton, Kent, Middlesex, Elgin, Oxford, Huron, Perth and Bruce.

One comprising the Counties of Wellington, Waterloo, Brant, Norfolk, Haldimand, Monck, Welland, Lincoln, Wentworth and Halton.

One comprising the Counties of Grey, Simcoe, Peel, York, Ontario, and the Districts of Muskoka, Algoma and Parry Sound.

One comprising the Counties of Victoria, Durham, Peterborough, Northumberland, Hastings and Prince Edward.

One comprising the Counties of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, Renfrew, Leeds, Lanark, Grenville, Dundas, Stormont, Glengarry, Prescott, Russell and Carleton.

The said Districts shall be termed respectively, the London, Hamilton, Toronto, Cobourg and Brockville Districts.

7. For each of the said districts other than Toronto there shall be elected by the Members of the Bar, usually resident and practising in the said districts respectively, three Members of the Bar, of at least ten years standing, and whether resident or practising in said respective districts or not, and whether the same shall be one of Her Majesty's said Counsel or not, to be Benchers of the Law Society; and for the Toronto District, there shall be similarly elected as Benchers six members of the like standing.

8. The first election for such of the Benchers as by this Act are directed to be elected by Her Majesty's Counsel and of such Benchers as hereby directed to be elected for the Toronto District, shall take place on the first Saturday in the Michaelmas Term next succeeding the passing of this Act, and every subsequent election of such members as are hereby directed to be elected by Her Majesty's Counsel and of such Benchers as are hereby directed to be elected for the district of Toronto, shall take place on the first Saturday of the Michaelmas Term, in the year proper for holding such election; and such elections shall take place at Osgoode Hall, Toronto.

9. The first election for the districts of London, Hamilton, Cobourg, and Brockville, shall take place on the first Wednesday after Michaelmas Term next succeeding the passing of this Act; and every subsequent election for the said districts, shall be held on the first Wednesday after Michaelmas Term in the year proper for holding such elections: and such elections shall take place in the Court House of the Cities of London and Hamilton, and of the Towns of Cobourg and Brockville, respectively, for the districts in which such cities and towns are situated respectively.

10. In the case of such elections as are by this Act directed to be held at Osgoode Hall, in the City of Toronto, the Secretary to the Law Society for the time being shall act as Returning Officer, and shall receive the votes of all Her Majesty's said Counsel, and of all Members of the Bar entitled to vote at such elections, and shall record in separate books to be kept by him for that purpose, one for the election by Her Majesty's said Counsel, and another for the election by the Members of the Bar, the name and residence of each person voting together with the names of those for whom such person shall have voted: and such books shall be returned by the Secretary to the first meeting of the newly elected Benchers, together with all such books kept for a like purpose by the other Returning Officers, and which by this Act are required to be returned by such Returning Officers to the Secretary for the time being of the Law Society.