

LAW REFORM

MEASURE.

County Court Powers
Largely Increased.

MR. GIBSON'S BILL.

Procedure Simplified—County Court
Jurisdiction Enlarged—The Day
in the Legislature.

A most important measure of law reform was introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. J. M. Gibson, Attorney General. The bill comprehends many new features which have been the subjects of discussion for some time. The general line adopted is to increase the jurisdiction of County Courts, leaving the question of appeals and Division Court jurisdiction to be dealt with, probably next session, when the experience of the present act will be at the disposal of the House. By the terms of Col. Gibson's measure suits may be brought in the County Courts involving approximately double the sums previously set as the limit; libel, slander, criminal conversation and seduction cases, applications to quash municipal by-laws, orders or resolutions of municipal Councils, and convictions or orders of local Justices of the Peace are brought within the jurisdiction of the County Court Judges. The procedure is simplified, writ of summons abolished, provision made that interlocutory motions in County Court actions shall be confined to one hearing before the Judge for directions as to trial. Provision is also made for the remedying of the abuse of the process of examination for discovery in all courts, also that juries be not summoned when there is no business to be done.