sternly drawn. There was some weight in another objection, namely, that there would be an increase in the number of appeals to the High Court or appeal court. This view would, no doubt, be found correct, and they might expect an increase in appeals, because the business of the courts would be increased.

### Higher Courts.

Objection had also been made because the bill made no refernce to appeals. He had thought it better to delay dealing with the matter to which he was now referring. That was a matter requiring the gravest consideration and lengthy deliberation. It had been suggested in this connection that there should be but one Court of Appeal, and that the Judges of the Supreme Court (Court of Appeal and High Court) should constitute that Court of Appeal. It had been further suggested that one division of that court should sit all the time. It had also been suggested that the Court of Appeal should be a court of promotion for High Court Judges. That was undoubtedly something that was to be desired. Possibly some action might be taken soon by the Dominion Government on that question. He had some expectation that this would be the case. For the present, however, it would, he thought, be better for the Ontario Legislature to leave matters in their present status, instead of making changes which perhaps might be subjected to further changes in the near future.

### The Popular View.

If the time should come when we were ready for such changes, he thought there was force in the suggestion that no action should be taken without having the opinions of those best capable of expressing intelligent views. In the case of the present bill there was a generally entertained view throughout the Province in favor of the increase of County Court jurisdiction. However, the legal profession did not agree on this point. There were conflicting interests, and we would wait a very long time for anything like unanimity. The bill might not go quite as far as it did and yet secure a large amount of business at the county towns. It was in the interest of the public and profession alike to have a larger class of cases dealt with by the County Courts. Much litigation never came into the courts by reason of the large amount of costs. He was not slandering the profession, for there was no profession more honorable. (A voice: "Carried," and laughter.) The amount of damages was not always the indication of the importance of a case. A man would often spend half a fortune in vindicating his character. He confessed it was with a good deal of hesitation that he brought libel and slander within County Court jurisdiction. He was open to arguments with reference to these two subjects of litigation. He was aware that their absent colleague, Mr. Garrow, whose opinions on these subjects were valuable, entertained a very strong view as to actions of slander and libel being left for the High Court to deal with.

### A Strong Judiciary.

He desired to say that whatever effect the bill might have in decentralizing the work of the courts, he was not a believer in the decentralization of the High Court. Centralization was the surest way of maintaining the standard of the High Court judiciary. They had an example of the bad effect of decentralization in another Province, and he thought it would be admitted on all hands that Ontario had a stronger judiciary than Quebec.

### Simplifying Procedure.

There were some measures in the bill which he was sure would greatly simplify procedure. The abolition of the writ of summons was one of these. He did not think that this would greatly lessen the expense, but it was desirable to simplify procedure, and the measure would, he thought, bring about that result. There were some, of course, who objected to simplification, but generally the proposition had met with approval. Some had asked why, if a change was made in County Court procedure, a like step should not be taken in regard to the High Court. He thought that the change could be carried out without affecting the High Court. The bill did not, as he had pointed out, deal with the latter, and after it had been given a trial they could discuss the advisability of other changes. Continuing, Mr. Gibson considered that the combining of interlocutory motions would be found to be a most satisfactory measure of reform.

### System of Costs.

It was the intention to give the block system of costs a trial in our County Courts. It had been introduced successfully in the State of New York. The complaint had been that there were too many appeals. That difficulty had, however, been already largely lessened by legislation. The total number of appeals to the Court of Appeal in 1899 was 127, and the total in 1900 was 122, not so very large a number all told. Of those entered in 1899 only 28 and in 1900 only 29 were direct from the Divisional Court, so that the number of appeals direct from court to court was not very large after all. He thought that isolated suits were often unfairly used by speakers and the press in condemnation of the general system.

### Examination for Discovery.

The bill, he proceeded, provides that the costs of examination for discovery shall not be taxed against the opposite party, except as to the actual disbursements. An amendment, he thought, might be made to cover cases where the examination resulted, owing to the breaking down of the defence, in motions for judgment. He proposed, therefore, to provide that in cases where examinations resulted in the obtaining of judgment, a fee should be allowed to the plaintiff's solicitor.

### Jury System.

Referring to the provisions regarding juries, and which provide machinery to prevent the calling of juries when there was no business, the Attorney-