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school teachers and other education-ists outside the University. The gift applied only to Toronto University and University College, and the Province assumed no legal or moral liability.

Sir James Whitney said he agreed heartily with what the Liberal leader had said respecting public school teachers. "The gift is offered to certain persons," the Premier observed, "and it would not be proper or in good taste for us to suggest it should be given to others."

**Cheapen and Expedite Procedure.**

Hon. A. G. MacKay, with the object of supplementing the Government's scheme of law reform, has given notice of a bill to amend the Surrogate Courts act. The object of the bill is to cheapen and expedite the winding up of estates of deceased persons. At present if an executor or administrator disputes a claim against an estate the claimant may delay six months before bringing action, and in certain cases they wait much longer. Mr. MacKay contends that the result in practice is that, in many cases, illegal claims are allowed in whole or in part by the executor or administrator in order that the estate may be speedily wound up. In dealing with such dubious claims a Surrogate Court Judge in passing the accounts of an executor or administrator can at present only allow or disallow the payment, but cannot adjudicate on the merits of the claim. If the Judge disallows the payment, then the executor or administrator must pay back the amount to the estate out of his own pocket. In 1905 an attempt was made to remedy this condition, but the courts held that a Surrogate Court Judge cannot, on an audit, try the merits of claims. The object of Mr. MacKay's bill is to reform the procedure and allow a Surrogate Judge, on short notice, to cite the parties to appear before him and may then adjudicate summarily on all claims up to \$500, or direct trial of an issue, if he so decide. Mr. MacKay does not propose any change in the present law to send disputed claims above \$500 to the High Court.

**More Liberal Law Reform.**

Another law reform measure, the abolition of the office of Local Master of the High Court in all but four counties, is fathered by Hon. Mr. MacKay and is set forth in the following resolution, which he will move on Wednesday:—

"Resolved, that this House is of opinion (1) that the necessary legislation should be introduced to provide (a) that except as to the counties of York, Wentworth, Carleton and Middlesex the office of Local Master of the High Court of Justice

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shall be abolished, and that wherever by any statute or rule or otherwise any act or thing is required to be done by a Local Master the same shall be performed by the County or District Judge or a Junior Judge without extra salary or fees. (b) That whenever and as often as a court or Judge refers any question to any County or District Judge in his capacity of Official Referee for inquiry and report the said Judge shall make such inquiry and report without any extra salary or fees. (c) That the collection of revenue by the Province through the sale of law stamps shall be discontinued. (2) That henceforth a very substantial reduction should be made in the fees payable to examiners for taking and transcribing examinations for discovery and other examinations in actions, and to court stenographers for the making of copies of evidence taken at trials."

**Mr. McDougal's Questions.**

Mr. D. J. McDougal (East Ottawa), has given notice of the following Legislative questions of the Attorney-General. (1) Was the Attorney-General informed of the killing of Silas E. Taylor, an employee of and in the yards of the Grand Trunk Railway at Madawaska on November 27 last? (2) Was an application made by the friends of the deceased for an inquest? (3) What was the result of this application? (4) What was the reason for the decision given? (5) Was this case investigated by the Railway Commission of Canada? (6) Did the Railway Commission ask the Attorney-General to order an inquest? (7) What action has been taken, or is intended to be taken by the Attorney-General with reference to this request?