

TORONTO PARALLEL OF LAWS OF MEDES AND PERSIANS

LAW SOCIETY MAY FURNISH
SUCH — INTERESTING QUES-
TION FOR LEGISLATORS.

Whether the rules of the Law Society of Upper Canada should be regarded in the light of the laws of the Medes and Persians—unalterable was really the question which developed in the Private Bills Committee yesterday when an act to authorize the Society to admit James George Guise-Bagley as a student in his final year was considered. Mr. Bagley, who was stated to be a gentleman about fifty-five years of age, was for upwards of twenty-five years a bona-fide clerk to solicitors in England, and for eighteen of these years he filled the position of managing clerk. In consequence of failing health he came to Canada, and has served with various barristers and solicitors in the Province of Ontario since 1907. He was appointed a notary public in the year 1909. He became clerk to A. E. H. Creswicke, K.C., in May, 1912, and subsequently entered into articles of clerkship with him, but has been unable to obtain admission to the Law Society for want of passing the matriculation examination at some Ontario University. Owing to his age and his duties he cannot take up a course of classics, but he is prepared to pass the final examinations in law.

Mr. G. H. Watson, K.C., on behalf of the Law Society, took the attitude that it would be unfair to allow someone to come in by a shortcut through the fence or open door when the same privilege was not given to others. If they allowed this there were scores and scores of clerks in their offices who had just as much right to the same treatment.

Mr. Hamilton Cassels, K.C., declared there was no law under Heaven but had an exception, and he considered the circumstances in this case were exceptional. How many of them at their time of life could pass one of these matriculation examinations, asked Mr. Cassels. This brought the retort, "Well, what are the examinations for?" To which the speaker replied they were to test men in their youth before they had given evidence of practical ability. He maintained that Mr. Bagley had shown ability on the practical side and quoted testimonials from several County Court Judges in support of this.

Expressions of opinion were given on both sides of the question, and eventually it was decided to delay until another meeting the giving of a decision.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS PROBE.

Investigation of Methods Employed at
Provincial Prison.

At the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee yesterday morning Mr. C. M. Bowman (North Bruce) continued his investigation into the methods of accounting employed at the new Provincial prison at Guelph. Mr. S. A. Armstrong, Assistant Provincial Treasurer, would not venture a guess as to how many prisoners were employed in the machine and iron shops. He stated that out of the 830 acres comprising the farm about 500 acres were used for farm purposes.

Dealing with details of the work, Mr. Armstrong produced work orders and requisition forms under which time and material were kept track of in connection with construction. Where material was manufactured into forms for the Whitby Asylum or any other public building he showed how the cost of these was charged against the particular work for which it was intended, and the amount credited to the prison through consolidated revenue account.

"We maintain that we produce an article at less money that is superior to what we can buy under tender in the outside market," said Mr. Armstrong.

"I think you have an idea of manufacturing them yourself," remarked Mr. McGarry to Mr. Bowman.

Mr. Armstrong explained the checking system in connection with the payroll.

"You could not have a man on the payroll who was not there—a liquor man or the like?" asked Mr. James I. Hartt whimsically.

"There would have to be a good many in the deal to do it," replied Mr. Armstrong.