LAW REFORM.

DR. JETHRO BROWN EXAMINED.

IMPORTANT CHANGES ADVOCATED.

The establishment of a Conciliation Court presided over by, say, a lawyer as chairman, and two laymen, was advocated by Dr. Jethro Brown, President of the State Industrial Court, in his evidence before the Law Reform Commission yesterday.

Dr. Jethro Brown, President of the State Industrial Court, gave evidence on Tuesday before the Law Reform Commission, and advocated a number of important changes in procedure.

The members of the commission present were: Mr. H. H. Young, M.P. (Chairman), Hon. J. Carr and Messrs. P. Aylward, R. P. Butcher, P. B. Reid, and A. W. Robinson.

The Chairman informed the witness that the Commission would like to have his views regarding law reform, and particularly concerning a Conciliation Court, which he thought might be useful in domestic, maintenance, and children's cases.

Dr. Brown said he had prepared a general statement, and after he had read it, he would be prepared to deal with any questions that might be put to him.

The Chairman then asked Dr. Brown to venture any suggestions regarding law reform he had in mind, with stress on any limitations which, if obvious to some and unobtrusive to others, were not in his opinion adequately recognized by the average citizen. He would give a few illustrations. Mr. H. H. Young, M.P. (Chairman), Hon. J. Carr and Messrs. P. Aylward, R. P. Butcher, P. B. Reid, and A. W. Robinson.

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1. No simple and brief code of laws could be devised which would be adequate to the needs of a modern, highly organized society. Civilisation may or may not be conceivable when these acts are committed by private individuals, but it is in his opinion inadequately recognized by the average citizen. He would give a few illustrations.

2. Courts of law could not function efficiently without the aid of a body of experts to assist, by deciding issues and determining the right of parties to their claims and disputes. The alternative to a legal system is a system of conciliation and the enforcement of a so-called discretion (or caprice) in the hands of judges, who are not in his opinion adequately recognized by the average citizen. He would give a few illustrations.

3. Lawyers as a class do not devote their energies to the solution of legal problems. The average lawyer is more commonly engaged in an endeavor to preserve the status quo, and in the interests of his clients, than to advise or represent either the rights or wrongs of his clients. They are not in his opinion adequately recognized by the average citizen. He would give a few illustrations.

Most experience is in connection with the advice to clients and the administration of justice, due to the character of the law, where the State is no exception. There is in every profession of law, and a large proportion of the work is done in the interest of the clients. We cannot even claim to have an adequate body of experts to advise, but the average citizen cannot be expected to be able to do so by himself.

4. The establishment of a Conciliation Court presided over by, say, a lawyer as chairman, and two laymen, would be advocated by Dr. Jethro Brown, President of the State Industrial Court, in his evidence before the Law Reform Commission.

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