

Civil Docket. All three of the Civil Dockets should be transcribed or re-made up from the papers.

Having stated my views as to the restoration of the Records, Dockets, &c., and of the books that should be re-recorded and transcribed, I beg leave to say that if the Legislature would adopt some plan to ascertain and decide what Records, Dockets, &c., should be re-recorded or transcribed, and then authorize the Clerk to re-record, transcribe and make up the above named Records, Dockets, &c., from such portions of said books as have not been destroyed by fire, or from the original papers that are at present in his possession, or which he may hereafter collect from persons to whom they may have been delivered, and whenever any of the said Records, Dockets, &c., cannot be completed by this process, to substitute and record such papers as may be established by a commission, until the Records, Dockets, &c., are completed; the whole cost to the county for reproducing and restoring the burnt Records, Dockets, &c., will not exceed the sum of five thousand five hundred dollars, including the cost of all books and stationery, the collection of the original papers, which are in the hands of the grantees, and every other expense appertaining to this division of the work.

There will be a considerable amount of labor to be performed by a commission, the cost of which will depend entirely upon the amount of duties the Legislature may require of it, and the time it will require to perform the same. If the above plan should be adopted for doing the work, it would be proper and necessary for the commission to examine the burnt Records, Dockets and papers, and the originals, which are at present or may hereafter come into the possession of the Clerk, before the same should be put upon record, and examine all the Records and Dockets, during their progress and after they are completed; there are many other matters which will require the attention of the commission, such as taking testimony in cases where title papers and records have both been destroyed, in cases where title papers have been destroyed before they were recorded, and where Trial and unsettled Equity papers have been partially or totally destroyed. It is not my intention to make an estimate of the cost and expense of a commission, and I will not attempt to make any suggestions as to its many duties, my object is only to speak of it in connection with the work for which I have made an estimate.

Your order also enquires whether the provisions of sections 54 and 55, article 18, of the Code, have been complied with in this county, &c.

I believe that sections 54 and 55, article 18, of the Code, have never been literally complied with, in this office either by my predecessor or myself.