

*A Handbook for Magistrates in relation to Summary Convictions and Orders and Indictable Offences.* By Hon. Thomas H. McGuire, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the N.W. Territories. Carswell & Co., Toronto, 1890.

This little work, in 100 pp., was written, as the learned author explains in his preface, as a plain and simple guide to Magistrates in their duties under the Acts relating to Summary Convictions and Indictable Offences.

After a brief introduction, indicating the source of the authority of a Justice of the Peace, the volume is divided into two parts; Part I. dealing with summary matters, and Part II. with indictable offences.

Part I., amongst other matters, points out how jurisdiction is conferred; gives practical instructions for preparing the information; indicates the number of Justices necessary; what may be done by one alone; defines when a summons or a warrant should be issued to secure the attendance of the defendant; treats of evidence, how witnesses may be compelled to attend, who are competent, the number required, rules for taking it, cross-examination, and lays down the procedure if defendant fails to appear; whilst Part II. gives equally minute instructions in regard to the procedure where the Magistrate's duty is limited to an inquiry whether the person charged before them should be required to stand his trial before some higher tribunal.

It will be seen from the above outline that the matter treated of is of great practical importance. A perusal of the book justifies the statement that it will be found very useful not only to Justices themselves, but to members of the legal profession. In a narrow compass a large amount of information is afforded.

The author's chief merit is perspicuity. Wherever possible, a synopsis is given of the law upon any point, in tabular form. As an instance of his method, at p. 20 under the head of "Number of Witnesses" he says: "As a rule one witness is sufficient, but in the following cases such evidence must be corroborated by other legal evidence: (1) Perjury; (2) Seduction, R.S.C., ch. 157, s. 6; (3) Forgery, if the witness is the person interested in respect of the forged document, ch. 174, s. 218; (4) Procuring feigned marriages, ch. 161, s. 2; (5) Treason, requiring two witnesses; (6) Where young children are permitted to give evidence without being sworn, ch. 37, s. 13 (1890)."

At the beginning of the work a number of charts or maps are prefixed, conveying information as to modes of procedure at a glance.

The language used throughout the volume is as free from technical expressions as possible, and as Magistrates rarely have the Reports accessible, there are but few references to authorities.

The work would seem to fill a long felt want, and will doubtless find a ready sale as soon as its value becomes generally known.