

# The Barrister.

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## EDITORIAL.

EVERY lawyer in Canada should be a reader of the Barrister; it is furnished subscribers at the cost of publication—two dollars a year, and is therefore within the means of everyone.

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WE invite all who desire to discuss any topic of interest to the Profession to use the Barrister freely.

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THE office of coroner is being discussed both here and in United States. Some are urging its abolition, others that it still be retained but that the coroner's jury be abolished. This office is one of the oldest known in the history of the Anglo Saxon race. It is no doubt "Moss grown and venerable," yet we would not urge its abolition but we would like to call the attention of the profession to a few reforms that might with great benefit to the public be inaugurated.

We believe there is not the slightest necessity for a jury. It is just as ridiculous as it would be to have a Police Magistrate investigate every case with a jury. The coroner should hear the evidence and take the full responsibility of making a finding himself.

We believe there is no valid reason why the office should be confined to the medical profession, as it is clearly one of a judicial character.

In cities at least the compensation of coroners should be changed from fees to a stated salary and each should have a certain defined district to preside over. At present under the fee system there are altogether too many, in fact it would almost appear that any doctor who has friends can be appointed coroner. The result is when a person dies under suspicious circumstances in the City of Toronto, within fifteen minutes after the breath has left the body of the deceased, half a dozen coroners are engaged in a ride for their life, each exerting himself to his utmost to get his warrant in first. Some of them running on foot, others driving a horse, and these in turn passed by a coroner on a bicycle. In fact a coroner is not in it now unless he has a bicycle and can go at full racing speed. We understand it is no uncommon thing for a coroner to rush into the police station ten minutes after a person has died, with a warrant to