

ceedings, by which seven jurors only are required to bring in a bill. Likewise, for the first time, in this district, has the law respecting the higher qualification of petty jurors been called into operation, and I am most hopeful that the effect of this new legislation, as already expressed by this Court, will tend, in no small degree, to the better administration of justice within this district.

"I cannot refrain, gentlemen, from putting before you a subject connected with the highest grade of criminality, and which has given rise to very grave apprehensions in the community for some time past.

"I wish to direct your attention to the crime of arson, or incendiarism, which, on account of, and from certain well-known reasons—very easily pointed out—has been on the increase, and that to a most alarming extent.

"The great facilities afforded by insurance companies to individuals for insuring arises, no doubt, from the great rivalry and competition which exists among them, by which they are induced most of the time to lay aside such precautions as are necessary to secure a safe risk, and which make them accept a premium which otherwise, if listening to common prudence only, they would refuse. This is, evidently, an incentive, I must say, to the committal of the crime, the extension of which is now so loudly complained of, and justly so.

"Be it as it may, the prevalence of arson in our midst, it must be admitted by all, has justly alarmed the public, for it is a crime which involves very often the danger of loss of life and property, and the alarm is the greater, when it is seen that incendiaries band themselves together for the commission of the nefarious crime.

(After referring to the sale of newspapers on the streets by young girls, his Honour continued :—)

"In the next place, I would refer you to that revolting spectacle that one sees very often—much too often—on our principal streets, filled with our wives and daughters and sisters, as well as people of all classes, attending to their business and occupations. I mean the presence of those most unfortunate beings, those cripples of all sexes and ages, who, in order to excite sentiments of charity, lay before the passer-by their hideous infirmities. The effects of such a sight, in some cases, are well known, and I need not quote to you here, to convince you, the sayings and writings of the learned and experienced on the subject.

"Here again, a reform is called for. These poor unfortunates should not be allowed to stand on the public thoroughfares, it seems to me, with the expectation that a helping hand is about to come to their assistance. There are, in our large and prosperous metropolis, many charitable and philanthropic institutions of all kinds ready to give them as comfortable an abode as they can expect, and I consider that the proper authorities, in attending to this, as well as to the other first-mentioned matter, would only be performing their part, which, I am sure, would not be an uncharitable one. Let their attention be called to the subject and they will be, no doubt, properly attended to."