

papers, opinions which they might have formed or not formed, with the minutest and most searching detail; and then perhaps at the very end the juryman is put on the waiting list to see if by possibility he won't ultimately fill the bill.

The first time I had the pleasure of meeting your President—I mean the President of the United States—while I never talk politics, either at home or abroad, I may be here permitted to say, that President Taft is the ideal, to my mind, of the man, the gentleman, and the lawyer. Whether he has the astuteness which seems to be necessary in this favored land to manage a party is, of course, not for me to say; that, perhaps, will be determined later on. On the first occasion I met your President, I gave him an illustration of the difference between our courts and some other courts. I had gone up to London, Ontario, on the same day upon which, a little further along on the same line of rail, but across the border, they began to get a jury to try a murder case. I had tried four criminals and they were comfortably on the way to the penitentiary; and I had got through with seven civil cases and was home, before in that American city they had secured half the requisite number of jurymen. Indeed, it is not at all uncommon, I am given to understand, that it takes not thirty minutes, but sometimes two weeks (indeed, I have heard it takes sometimes two months) to find a jury. In thirty years' experience at the bar and on the bench which I have had, I never yet have seen it take thirty minutes to find a jury, even in a murder case.

Where a person is charged with a crime, in the State of which I have been speaking, all the old technicalities, rules of the old English common law, are in full force and effect. Those rules which are not the perfection of common reason, those rules which were often the invention of tender-hearted judges, who did not want to hang some miserable wretch just because he had stolen a loaf of bread to still the hunger cry of his famishing brood, those rules which were invented as an excuse for the tender-hearted judge, are in criminal cases invoked and applied every day in this State to which I have referred. Indeed, it would seem, in that particular State, that the prisoner has so many rights that nobody else has any at all, either State or individuals. All the technicalities which an ingenious and subtle mind