

E. McMahon, Esq.,

Coroner of the District of Montreal, Westmount, Que.

My Dear Sir,

I have examined, with some care, the manuscript submitted to me of your valuable book on the duties of a coroner at his inquests with and without a jury; and I heartily congratulate you upon the thoroughness of your work, the publication of which will not only place, at the disposal of the public at large, some very useful and definite information and instructions, but cannot fail to be of great utility and benefit to coroners, lawyers, civic and other authorities, priests, ministers, medical practitioners and others directly and indirectly engaged and concerned in investigating the causes of sudden deaths, of deaths due or suspected to be due to negligence, violence or foul play, and of deaths of persons dying while under restraint of their liberty, such as prisoners and inmates of lunatic asylums, etc.

To give a full appreciation of your work would require more space than is contained within the bounds of a mere letter; but I may briefly mention what appear to me to be some of its salient points.

Your treatment of the subject of a Coroner's duties, in general, and of the procedure before and at and after a regular inquest with a jury, is new and most complete.

In my opinion no previous work contains so exhaustive and critical an enquiry into and examination of the sources of a Coroner's powers, duties and responsibilities, nor so clear and minute an explanation of his special powers and duties in the matter of his preliminary inquests or investigations without a jury; and, never before, has any author put forward such useful and comprehensive suggestions for future legislative improvements on the subject in hand as are contained in the concluding pages of your work.

Trusting that your publication will meet with unbounded success,

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

JAS. CRANKSHAW.