

*A COUNTRY COUNTY CROWN ATTORNEY'S RANDOM REMINISCENCES.**

People living in large cities are frequently startled by reading accounts of strange and mysterious crimes committed near their own doors. These crimes shew the depravity of criminals, the great risks they take in committing offences, often without the prospect of any substantial benefit from their crimes, and that murder and grievous bodily injury is often committed with slight provocation. And many people suppose that these city crimes are owing to the gathering together of hardened and habitual criminals, schooled in crime, in large cities.

The County Crown Attornies who have spent years in endeavouring to keep the peace of their counties often find that tragedies are not peculiar to cities, and that in well ordered rural districts depraved human nature is very much in evidence, at times. They have frequently to deal as best they can in the absence of a trained police force, with cases which shew that the congested population of cities have no monopoly of crime. Forty-four years of experience as a country Crown Attorney has convinced me that there is urgent need of legislation requiring, in each county, the services of one or more well-trained and properly paid police officers, not only for the detecting of crime but for the instruction of rural constables.

In the administration of justice in criminal cases some strange rulings have been made by County Court and even by Superior Court judges, through which criminals escape punishment. In the disposal of civil business, numerous cases occur which furnish ground for a strong suspicion that the law is not yet an exact science.

At the request of the Association, I propose to refer to a few cases in which I have been concerned, or of which I have been an observer, which it is hoped will be of some interest to the profession.

*This was a paper read by Mr. J. E. Farewell, K.C., the present President of the Ontario Bar Association, at its annual meeting recently held.