
FEES IN CRIMINAL CASES.

A very unseemly occurrence, referred to in the public papers, in connection with the Police Court business of a large city in Ontario, shews the necessity of having a tariff of fees in criminal cases for the guidance of practitioners, and the protection of the public.

It would appear that an exorbitant counsel fee was demanded and paid by a poor woman, terror-stricken by her son being brought before a Police Magistrate, charged with a petty theft. Legal services, which would have been well paid for by a fee of ten to twenty dollars, cost the unfortunate woman one hundred and fifty dollars, which she had to pay promptly. The fact that the practitioner subsequently returned the woman \$125, when remonstrated with, only shews that he recognized his misconduct, but did not remove the smirch cast upon his class in the eyes of the public. It only gave rise to the suspicion that his charge was gauged, not by the value of his services, but by the mother's state of mind, and the amount of her savings.

If a tariff of fees is desirable and necessary in civil cases, it is very much more so in criminal cases. It is unfortunate that there are those in the profession who need to be watched and guarded against, but so it would appear to be, if the report in the newspapers is correct. An appropriate tariff should be prepared at once for many reasons and it is for the Law Society to take action to this end.

THE RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY.

The right of trial by jury is part of the British Constitution, and should not lightly be taken away. Taking advantage of the rules of court in that behalf, and possibly straining them, certain Judges (speaking now of Ontario), are much given to doing away with juries in cases coming before them. It is true, that there are many cases where the facts had better be found by a Judge than by a jury; and in certain cases, where popular prejudice might interfere with justice, juries are abolished. But to say that