

or order made by a greater number under the provisions of this section."

The language of this section is, it will be noticed, express and positive. The justices of the senior county *shall* (the direction is imperative), at the first sittings of the Court of Quarter Sessions, appoint new Court divisions, as under section 8; and, moreover, *shall* appoint the time when such change of divisions is to take effect. The justices neglecting to make the change at the proper time, are not indeed *concluded* from acting, but the permission to do so at another sitting would not justify the omission to perform the duty at the first sittings of the Court.

Every order of sessions altering Court divisions ought to be made to take effect at a future day, and so appear on the face of the order. Sudden changes in the Court divisions would produce confusion in the business of the Courts, and cause public inconvenience: and a reasonable interval should be allowed between the publication of the order, and the time it is to take effect, to enable proper arrangements to be made for continuing to completion pending business, and to give the officers of the Courts affected, and to the public resorting to the Courts, timely notice of the change.

That such orders as these were not designed by the Legislature to come into force at once, may be collected from the language used in the 11th and 14th sections: and indeed the practical difficulty attendant on an abrupt change is so obvious, that it need not be enlarged upon.

While ample power has been given to justices in sessions, for increasing the number of divisions, for consolidating two or more, or for taking a part from one division and adding it to another to suit public convenience,—their every act in respect to these Courts, is subject, as we have seen, to this general restriction, that "a less number of justices shall not alter or rescind any resolution or order made by a greater number" (secs. 8 and 14). This, in the nature of things, would probably be held as law—the express provision gives emphasis to the prohibition. Alterations should be sparingly made in established Courts, and then only on public grounds. Constant changes in the local Courts are most embarrassing to suitors, and disturb the general economy of the Courts. "Orders and resolutions" are both named, the Legislature probably having in view not only orders for appointing and altering Court limits, but also correlative resolutions of a precautionary character—such, for instance, as would prevent the body of magistrates in a judicial district being taken unawares, and changes made which would ultimately be disapproved in a full Court of Quarter Sessions. In view of the provision referred to, the name of every magistrate present, when any order or resolution under the act is passed in

Quarter Sessions, should appear in the minutes of the Court.

The following section provides for a separate record of all orders of sessions relating to the appointment and alteration of Court divisions:—

"The Clerk of the Peace, in a book to be by him kept, shall record the divisions declared and appointed, and the time and places of holding the Courts, and the alterations from time to time made therein, and he shall forthwith transmit to the Governor a copy of the record." (Sec. 15.)

This record may be made by entering the orders of sessions with a proper caption, shewing the Court at which they were made, and the names of the magistrates present. *The places of holding the Courts* cannot be entered by the Clerk of the Peace, till he is informed thereof by the judge, whose duty it is, under the 6th section, to appoint them. *As to the times of holding the Courts*, it is not so clear what is the proper course; it may be that instantly the entry is to be made "once in every two months," in such and such Courts, and "once in every six months" (or as the case may be), in such divisions as the justices (acting under sec. 7), may certify to the expediency of holding a Court less frequently than once in every two months; or that the Clerk of the Peace first receives information from the judge, and then makes the entries. The justices' certificate has no force without the order of the Governor, which order is communicated to the judge; and the judge may, in his discretion, hold any Court oftener than once in two months; so that it is he only who can give full information to the Clerk of the Peace. And therefore the last suggested mode of complying with the requirements of the clause seems the more correct—indeed the only one that will enable full entries to be made in harmony with all the enactments.

The entries in this book are of such a public nature, that an examined copy or extract therefrom certified as such, and signed by the Clerk of the Peace, would be admissible in any Court of Justice, or before any person having, by law or consent of parties, authority to hear, receive, or examine evidence (Consol. Stat. U. C., cap. 33, sec. 6).

Intimately connected with the duty of appointment and alteration of Court divisions, is that set forth in section 7, as follows:—

"If the magistrates of any county in Quarter Sessions assembled, certify to the Governor that in any division of the county, from the amount of business, remoteness or inaccessibility, it is expedient that the Court should be held so often as once in every two months, the Governor in Council may order the Court to be held at such periods as to him seems meet, and may revoke the order at pleasure, but a Court shall be held in the division at least once in every six months."

Where a judicial district is extensive and portions of it but thinly populated, the public interests may require the