

As to the question of compensation the *Law Notes* has gathered information as to what is done in this regard in other countries. The propriety of State compensation has received extensive recognition in Germany, where the idea has been before the Reichstag since 1882. It was enacted by the German Parliament in the year 1889 that a condemned person, who had been acquitted after a re-hearing of his case, could, under certain circumstances, demand compensation from the State. In 1904 the benefit of this principal was extended to innocent accused persons who had been imprisoned during the investigation of the charges against them, certain conditions and limitations being provided. We learn also that the Indian Criminal Procedure Code contains a provision for compensation to an acquitted prisoner, and provides some system of reparation for judicial errors. In some of the European countries, such as Switzerland and Norway and Sweden, there are some enactments of a similar character.

The subject is a very difficult one, and whilst the justice of compensation under the circumstances spoken of cannot be questioned, any provision to that end would have to be very carefully guarded to prevent abuse. It is this difficulty, doubtless, which has prevented any legislation in England, the United States or Canada. It calls for careful consideration on the part of those who are responsible for legislation; and more thought should be given to the gross wrong which is occasionally done to the individual.

The writer of an article on a subject akin to the above, published in "Everybody's Magazine," directs attention to the hardships suffered by persons who have been tried and acquitted. The language is rather strong, but there is much truth in his trenchant remarks: "The plight of an acquitted 'murder prisoner' is without duplicate or parallel in human affairs. The acquitting verdict of a murder jury is a confession by the State that the jury itself had no valid ground for existence; that the judicial machinery had slipped a cog; that officials too careless or too eager had clutched a victim instead of a culprit. And the freed 'suspect'—the acquitted man? Stripped and broken, bruised by foul handling, scarred by suspicion, pallid from death's shadow