

# REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

Toronto, 25th September, 1920.

HON. W. E. RANEY, K.C., M.P.P.,

*Attorney-General for Ontario.*

Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

DEAR SIR,—Pursuant to your request that I should make a brief study of the administration of criminal justice and treatment of prisoners in New York and Chicago, to which I have taken the liberty of adding Detroit, which has recently reorganized its criminal courts, and Toronto for the purpose of comparison, I have the honour to report as follows:—

I must first express my warm appreciation of the kindness and courtesy I received in each of the above cities from the Judges and officers of justice, and members of the legal profession. It is not too much to say that they literally overwhelmed me with favours, and nothing seemed any trouble for them when I explained your authority for my mission.

I have briefly outlined, at pages 6 to 22 of this report, the conditions found in each city bearing upon the enquiry, and many useful reports, pamphlets, etc., are filed with and in confirmation of my summary. I have given greater space to New York, because it was first and largest, but in all cases endeavoured to emphasize the principal features called to my attention.

You have evidently observed that a rare opportunity now presents itself to place the administration of criminal justice in Toronto on a more satisfactory and, having regard to future growth, permanent basis, permitting unlimited expansion.

This letter is to offer my suggestions and recommendations arising out of the investigation. The first step is the Police Court.

## POLICE COURT.

It will be observed that the name Police Court has disappeared and is replaced in the three American cities by—

1. The City Magistrates' Court, City of New York.
2. The Municipal Court of Chicago.
3. The Recorder's Court of the City of Detroit.

The popular standing of the Magistrate in each place has been elevated to that of Judge. The whole tendency has been to lift up those lower courts to a much higher plane, resulting in greater respect, dignity and efficiency.

## RECOMMENDATION.

That the name here be changed to the Magistrates' Court of Toronto, and that the Magistrates be styled Judges, and each addressed in Court as "Your Honour," and that hereafter appointments to this Bench be made from members of the Bar