

crete, it is often found to mean little more than a general recasting of the machinery of the courts, and heretofore has not brought forth much real fruit. Speaking for myself, my short experience upon the Bench has not changed the view formed as the result of fairly active practice at the Bar, that a system that has been found to work well should not be radically changed, and that it would on the whole be better to endeavour to get rid of minor defects in the present system rather than to make any great change.

The administration of our criminal law, particularly in all cases of importance, leaves little to be desired. The limited right of review now permitted by the Code removes what was at one time a defect and substantial justice is now assured.

Yet the proceedings in magistrates' courts often miscarry. Technical errors, at one time, made it almost impossible to sustain any proceedings in the magistrates' courts. The magistrate was still surrounded by the necessity of technical accuracy which survived from the old common law days. The power to amend and sustain convictions when guilt is clear and there is no real miscarriage is a great advance. Yet too many convictions are still quashed and I would submit that the law might well be amended so that in all cases in which a conviction cannot now be sustained by reason of some error not falling within the saving and curative sections of the Code the courts should be given power to order a new trial, so that the guilty may not escape by the error or even stupidity of a magistrate.

This, however, is a minor matter. I desire to place in the forefront of suggested reform the need of a change in the law with regard to Workmen's Compensation.

Common law, said to be "the last result of human wisdom acting upon human experience for the public benefit" and to be "founded on the charities of religion, in the philosophy of nature, in the truths of history and the experience of common life," has admittedly proved inadequate.

We have for long had a "Workmen's Compensation Act" in some respects modifying the common law, and practically