

before the arguments of counsel commence; the Judge by statute is then required to write on the margin of those instructions either "Given" or "Refused," or he may modify them. The "Given" ones are read to the jury, the "Refused" are put to one side; they are taken by the jury to the jury room and are part of the exhibits in the case. The Municipal Court has something entirely different, and that is a system of oral instructions. This we have come to feel is a mistake, that it is not the proper way to do, to have such totally different methods of procedure going on in the same community at the same time; so that only a few days before I left to come here there was a meeting of the judiciary of all Courts of the City of Chicago, and they agreed on a proposed bill of certain modifications and changes in the law. The first point and most essential of them all was to establish a uniform practice; and that will be presented undoubtedly to the State Legislature at an early moment, if it has not been done already; and when the judiciary and the lawyers are back of any movement of that kind it is usually safe to predict that the Legislature will follow their lead. So that I think we may look very soon to find in the great State of Illinois a simplified and uniform procedure.

But still another problem demands our attention, and we are very far from having solved it, and since arriving in Toronto I have inquired if you were troubled with the same thing—I am very pleased to know that you are not—and that is the old, old evil which Shakespeare enumerated through the lips of Hamlet, as one of the ills that flesh is heir to, the law's delay. There we have at least proved deficient. Not altogether in some respects; our Supreme Court, the highest tribunal sitting at Springfield, is fairly well up with its work; it has about four terms a year, and usually disposes of a case if not at the first, at any rate at the second term. But our Appeal Courts, the first appeal—there are four branches in Cook County of three Judges each, made up of the Judges of the Circuit and Superior Courts who are assigned to them—have been very steadily behind, but they are catching up to a certain extent. The work there, however, is very considerably delayed, of course depending on which Court it happens to be. But it is in our Trial Court, not so much in the matter of small