

### A CANADIAN POLICE MAGISTRATE.

In our last issue in briefly referring to the system of appointing amateur magistrates in England we stated that "fortunately in Canada the administration of justice is practically wholly in the hands of professional judges, even in petty cases." We might have added that our police magistrates, because of their larger powers as compared with their English contemporaries, and their independence, which makes them judge more cases with equity than from law, have become an institution essentially Canadian in character and procedure. Such a magistrate is Col. George T. Denison, the veteran police magistrate of Toronto, whose recollections have just been published with an introduction by that able deputy minister of education for Ontario, Dr. A. H. U. Colquhoun. Appointed forty-two years ago, Col. Denison has tried the majority of the 650,000 cases that have been dealt with in his court during that period with a fearlessness and insight into character that at times has dumfounded the legal mind steeped in the lore of precedents and delay. Yet very few of the Colonel's judgments have been upset by the higher courts. His love of justice, and his common sense soon became a slogan to the frequenters of his court, and though at all times he has been unsparing in the punishment of brutality and cruelty, he has always shown a feeling of practical sympathy to those who have been victims of their own weakness or of circumstances over which they had no control. Even those who make their living by means against the laws have a sense of fair play, and when caught take their punishment with philosophic stoicism when fairly judged, and it must be with a certain sense of pride that the Colonel is able to state in his Recollections that in no one case has a defendant of this class appealed against his judgment. Of course, such recollections would not be complete without their humor, and some of the episodes related are worthy of the best writers of comedy. The Recollections, which are published by the Mussen Book Company of Toronto, are well worth reading by all students of Canadian life and character.

### WHY MUNICIPAL MEN SHOULD READ THIS JOURNAL.

#### Extract from a Letter—

For successful civic administration three factors are necessary:

1st. A keen intelligence in all things municipal on the part of the municipal council.

2nd. The closest co-operation and functioning between the legislative and administrative sides of the local governing body.

3rd. The best understanding between the council and the ratepayers every day of the year.

Assuming this dictum to be correct it is obvious that it is the duty of the local council to obtain the very best and latest information pertaining to civic affairs, and one cannot conceive any better means to get such information than through a live journal such as the Canadian Municipal Journal.

### THE TELEPHONE RATE FIGHT.

The advantages of the Union of Canadian Municipalities organization and the activities of its officers have never been better displayed than in the promptness with which they arrayed the Union's forces to resist the threatened new inroads of the Bell Telephone Co. of Canada. Immediately on the publication of the Bell Telephone Company's application, the Secretary-Treasurer entered into communication with President Roberts and arranged for a meeting in Montreal on the 25th August of representatives from the principal cities and towns of Ontario and Quebec. This was duly held and was largely attended, the spirit of co-operation shown by the delegates being remarkable. A Special Executive Committee to handle the campaign was appointed consisting of Chairman E. R. Decary, of the Montreal Administrative Commission; F. B. Proctor, City Solicitor, Ottawa; Mayor Jos. Samson, of Quebec, and Ald. F. E. Harley, of London... A thorough staff of experts has been engaged, consisting of Chas. Laurendeau, of Montreal, and an Ontario assistant counsel for the legal side; Mr. Haghanaw, of Chicago, for technical matters, and Price, Waterhouse Co. for accounts and finances. Whatever may be thought of the exorbitant charges proposed by the telephone people, our Union members may be assured that their interests will be energetically defended. The Secretary-Treasurer is now obtaining volume records of telephone calls from business firms in cities affected and is working out the effect in dollars and cents for the information of the Railway Commission and the public when the question comes up next month.

### JUVENILE COURTS.

Juvenile Courts are a development of modern days. Their establishment has been based on the legal concept that the juvenile offender is the erring ward of the State, rather than a criminal foe of the social order. Community appreciation of Juvenile Court work has been based on the realization of several principles which are admirably stated by Edward F. Waite, District Judge of the Juvenile Court, Minneapolis, in his paper on "The Origin and Development of the Minnesota Juvenile Court," as follows:

1. The value of the child to the community;
2. The relative moral irresponsibility of juveniles;
3. The advantage of reformation over punishment as a social motive in dealing with offenders;
4. The effect of heredity and environment on character;
5. Community responsibility for conditions resulting in inherited and environmental handicaps.

Since the establishment of the first Juvenile Court in Chicago in 1899, Juvenile Courts have been set up in many of the large cities in Canada and the United States.—Toronto Bureau of Municipal Research.