

annual insurance premiums as high as \$35,000. The annual cost of membership in the Canadian Medical Protective Association, which insures its members against malpractice suits, is \$250.

The Making of Barristers, Solicitors, Advocates and Notaries

Most provinces require potential lawyers to attend university for two years and law school for three. Successful students are then articled as apprentices under the supervision of a practicing lawyer for approximately a year. They also take special practice courses under the tutelage of the provincial Law Society. The Societies control admission to the profession and discipline wayward members.

The Elite

Canada's legal elite are found to a considerable degree in a score of large firms, each with dozens of lawyers.

They are primarily corporate lawyers, dealing in taxes and financing and other areas of corporate interest. An attorney may devote his full time to the law of computer leasing, for example, and another may specialize in applications to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission. In the west there are specialists in oil, mining and natural resources law.

Most of the big firms avoid the courts, though some do have large litigation departments. Courtroom lawyers tend to regard themselves as a fraternity and in Ontario they have their special group, the Advocates' Society, founded in 1965. The Society bought the former home of Chief Justice Sir William Campbell of Upper Canada, built in Toronto in 1822, moved it from its original site to University Avenue across from Osgoode Hall and restored and furnished it with period pieces.

The top Ontario firms recruit many of their new members from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law, Osgoode Hall and Queen's University. Major sources of new lawyers in Quebec are McGill and Laval; in the West, the big provincial universities.

The selection process is stern. Jack Batten, writing for *Saturday Night*, cites one year's screening at the Toronto firm of Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt as an example. Three hundred students applied for articling positions after graduation. The firm's students committee eliminated all those who had less than a B average, reducing the number to 153. The rest were then interviewed at length and ten were picked. Five of the ten were eventually invited to join the firm as associates and assigned a particular specialty: real estate, labour, estates, tax, corporation or litigation. All are lucrative, but the tax and corporation divisions are the most prestigious.

Crime

Crime rates in the United States are higher than those in Canada; the number of homicides per 100,000 population, for example, is four times greater. This could cause some Canadians (and some Americans) to believe that 1) most Canadians are better behaved, or 2) that the Canadian system is more nearly perfect, but neither assumption has much to do with reality.

Criminal offences in Canada are divided into summary conviction offences, indictable offences and dual procedure offences, where the prosecutor has the option of prosecuting by either summary conviction or indictment.

Indictable offences are tried by a more complex and formal procedure than are summary conviction offences. In the latter cases, the maximum penalties are a \$500 fine or six months in prison or both. These, as well as some indictable offences, are tried in the magistrate's or provincial courts without a jury. In more serious indictable cases the defendant may choose to be tried by the magistrate/provincial judge alone, by a federally appointed county court judge alone, or by a county court judge with a jury.

The most serious cases, such as murder, rape or treason, must be tried by a judge of the superior court, usually with a jury.

The September Study

In 1967 the Law Reform Commission of Canada began the September Study, a five-year effort to determine the prospects of novice Canadian criminals.

The subjects were offenders convicted of their first serious crimes that September, a total of 2,071 persons. The heavy majority of the persons in the dock were male and under thirty; one-quarter were under nineteen. Most, not surprisingly, were from Ontario or Quebec, the most populous provinces. Slightly less than a fifth came from the prairies, a little more than a fifth from the Maritimes and British Columbia, and very few from the Yukon or the Northwest Territories.

Most committed non-violent crimes ranging from breaking-and-entering to white-collar fraud. One in seven committed a crime against another person, one in twenty a sexual offence.

More than forty per cent were given suspended sentences or otherwise released. Twenty per cent were imprisoned and five per cent fined. Most of those imprisoned received very short sentences; 31.4 per cent served only one day.

Most of the crimes against persons were relatively minor—common assault, assault causing