

is a matter for legitimate complaint. Courts are places for doing business, not for wasting time. But be definite; don't indulge in vague grumbling; name your man, and state what is complained of. Above all things, before complaining, be very sure that the matter complained of is not in reality the law which the judge has been obliged to declare and that the apparent procrastination is not due to the difficulty of the questions of the law to be determined. Of this be very certain—the man who questions the law as laid down by the Court may possibly be right, though the chances are against it—but the man (and there are such) who tries to shake your confidence in the integrity of the Courts is a public enemy. We Judges are not busied with things with which the public have no concern any more than we are demigods, above criticism—we are employed every day in matters of the greatest living importance. We are not apart from, but a part of, the people. We are all loyal Canadians; we are all jealous for the reputation of Canadian Courts and Canadian justice: our interests are the same as yours. If I thought that there were any considerable number who held a contrary opinion, I should begin to despair of the future of Canada; as yet there is no ground for such a fear and, please God, there never will be.

And lastly, may we not all carefully consider whether our people are not allowing themselves to be unduly swayed by sympathy; whether from the influence and example of the adjoining country (or some parts of it), or from loss of moral fibre and strength, or from some other cause, we are not becoming somewhat lax in our administration of justice, getting away from traditional English methods? Is it that we do not look at crime with the abhorrence we should, and so allow some to escape who richly deserve punishment? If so, we must be ourselves punished by our land becoming in respect of the sanctity of human life like those we copy. It may be full time for the public at large to consider whether those whose duty it is to detect crime are assisted as much as they should be, whether in their legitimate efforts they receive the backing of public opinion as they should. We are all perhaps too apt to look upon the prisoner in the dock as a quarry—a game animal—and his prosecution as being in the nature of a sport, and to consider that it is no great matter to anyone but the accused of what he is convicted or whether he is convicted at all; instead of looking at a trial as a stern and careful inquiry by the people into an offence against themselves in which it would be as great a failure of justice and as harmful to the people that a guilty man should escape as that an innocent man should be convicted. And the future of this land, so far as the security of life and limb and property is concerned, lies not in the hands of the police alone but largely in the hands of jurors. If jurors do their duty we are secure; if not, we retrograde into the ranks of an inferior people.

I have spoken longer than I had intended, but the whole subject is very near to my heart. I want Canadians to get rid of the idea that the Courts are some mysterious entities existing remote and separate from them, and making edicts based upon some absurd and peculiar doctrines or upon the whim and caprice of the judge. I want you to feel that the Courts are yours, administering your law, law which you make, or at least approve, and doing all possible for you, having no interests or desires apart from or antagonistic to yours. We are bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh—brother Canadians and proud of it. So long as you and we understand each other, we shall work in harmony; and so long as we are in harmony and do our honest best, so long, with all the defects which we have in common, and with perhaps a thousand stumbles and falls, the administration of justice in Canada will be held in respect, and the aspiration of the patriot in all ages—"Justice according to Law"—will continue to be realized.