

requirements of the people or mis-applied in the support of institutions which have become obsolete, or officers whose services have ceased to be necessary.

It would seem that the tendency of governmental action is to revert to the old plan, namely, that all these charges shall be paid directly by the people. This statute of 1846 is being continually revised and altered in that direction, and it is quite reasonable to suppose that a couple more revisions will wipe it out of existence. It becomes imperative on the people to look more and more closely into the expenditure of the money thus drawn from them. By the way, is this growing practice of revising the statutes a safe one? Is the legislature supposed to criticize and consider every section of the laws which are presented to it in a huge volume or two? And if not, does it not follow that the revised statute book may contain ideas and even enactments that the legislature should not, and perhaps would not, endorse?

There is a very cogent expression in one of Edmund Burke's speeches which might possibly apply. "The people have no interest in mis-government, if they err it is never by design, but by mistake, but it is far otherwise with governments, they may err by design as well as by mistake." But to proceed. The second question as to the necessity in the public interest of the retention of our fee system is I think fully answered in the negative.

The third question—the possibility of their extinction or alteration, is now to be considered. We have in this province fourteen superior court judges, and it is, with many, a matter of wonder how they get through with the mass of work which devolves upon them. Let us turn now to another feature in judicial affairs, county judges. We have one of them in every county in the province, and in nineteen counties, two. There are sixty-four of them I think. If the entire annual judicial labor of the whole lot was lumped, it is very doubtful if it would approach the labour of the fourteen men above spoken of.

The quarter sessions and county court are ready to depart, they are even now in articulo mortis, and the fragment of business which still appertains to them can be easily disposed of, the so called county judges criminal court, with absolute jurisdiction in all cases triable now at quarter sessions, aided by judicial appointments of police magistrates to act as they now do, would meet all the requirements of the country in respect to minor criminal offences; and there does not seem to be any good reason why a judge could not work a circuit of three or four counties or even more. In this way the province might be parcelled out, so to say, among fourteen men. The same mode of procedure would equally apply to division courts, and thus twenty-eight or thirty men, or perhaps less, would do the work of the whole sixty-four.

Let the county, under the provisions of the statute, give the sheriff a fair remuneration for his actual services in connection with criminal justice, without fees, leaving him his civil service fees as he now has them. In our day and in a democratic country, such as ours is and is likely

to be, nobody expects that an official is to grow rich—cocked hats and jvelin men are quite out of place among us.

The clerk of the peace is the clerk of the court of quarter sessions. If the court goes, the clerk should go also; the trifling amount of business which comes to him now in connection with criminal matters, should be done by his alter ego the county attorney, now, it is using two men to do not half of one man's work.

A great deal of the apparent work or business of this office is in no sense of any use or benefit to the public. The necessary work is closely connected with the action of the county council and should be paid for by salary through that body. The county court—surely eleven cases (or twice that number) in five years, could be got rid of with the help of the division court.

Having thus got rid of one half of our juries, for pity's sake let the other, and really essential, half, be selected in some way less expensive and more in accordance with common sense than the idea which is at the bottom of the present method, namely, that the position of a man on the assessment roll is the actual measure of his intelligence and fitness.

Another remark and I have done. It is quite evident that there is a feeling of unrest and dissatisfaction with the present state of affairs generally in our country. If there are existing evils, and we do not doubt their existence, what is the remedy? We are the freest people on the face of the earth. Our laws are just what we choose to make them. If we find them to be bad or ineffective, we can repeal or alter them. If they are good we should see that they are honestly and faithfully executed. This is the duty of every man. It is the part of a fool and coward to fold his hands in his difficulties and say, "I will give up." It is the part of an honest upright man to look his difficulties square in the face and say, "I will contend with them and overcome them."

We are vastly mistaken if we for a moment suppose that the recuperative energies of a young country, such as ours, could be stopped or stayed by slight derangements or difficulties in the method or mode of government. Nothing but conduct on the part of the people of the most radically destructive character in which they themselves must be involved, would prevent the progress of this country in the present day.

I have had personal contact with all the difficulties with which our country has had to deal for over sixty years, and my confidence in its future is not in the least shaken. I can look back upon all the political difficulties which culminated in the month of December 1837, and the vast exodus of our people consequent thereon, which continued to afflict us for years, yet, the recuperative energy of our country was such in the meantime, that we lived through the terrible financial crisis of 1847, and though fearfully scorched, were not killed. Again in 1857 the wolf was at the door; but for the last thirty years our troubles have been trifles.

I cannot express the disgust I feel for the craven, cowardly soul who seeks to undermine, and if possible, destroy his country; who, (carried away by some foolish theory of government as in his opinion

it ought to be conducted, or that the only true foundation of happiness for the people is the price of barley or horses or some such chimera) is prepared to barter, sell or give away this fair heritage upon the face of which he himself is the greatest and worst blot.

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PARIS LETTER.

Nothing can be more instructive, or more important since it comes home to every man's bosom and business than the curious evolution now rapidly taking place in the Labour question. The latter is becoming purely political socialism. Every strike, whether futile or serious, is at present seized as the pretext to organize and advance the programme and the cry of "the social revolution." The moment a strike of any importance is declared, it is at once commanded and directed by a socialist deputy, who, wearing the insignia of his legislative office, harangues the people to federate, in order to bring the tyrant capitalists to their knees, and wring from them the compensations, rather than the reforms, due to the working man. It is thus that Deputy Baudin has taken charge of the strike at Amiens, alleging he was elected to crusade for the social revolution in every part of France, and his confreres ought to act likewise, and aid the common cause by their presence and their experience.

At Angers, it is an anarchist, one Menner, that leads the strikers; the latter do not exactly know what redress they have to demand from their employers; they have been ordered to "go out," and they obey the password. The labour unions or trade syndicates, have besides their technical committees, a collateral administrative body, which manipulates the organization for political ends and the coming elections. This anything but occult organization is illegal; its action breaks the law, but how cure the mischief? The triumph of the Belgian working classes has stimulated the same classes in France to insist on the "move." Federate! federate! federate! Such is the order of the day, for French labourists command the electoral votes and the making of the laws can be consequently commanded. That mode of action is more genial to the French temperament, which loves a concrete problem and a definite and logical deduction.

Perhaps the most dangerous form of socialism is that championed by the Comte de Mun. This deputy is the official representative in France of the Pope's ideas about "Christian Socialism." He has just returned from Rome, and asserts from private conversations with Leo XIII., that the latter desires the Comte to try and re-establish "God in French institutions." How—by relying on the people? Up to the present, asserts M. de Mun, the Church has been too closely bound up with the governing, the drawing-room classes. The clergy must go to the people, cast in their lot with them, and gain their sympathies, as in the case of Ireland and the United States. Only the Comte is comparing two very unlike things; the masses in France have no sympathy with the clergy, and in matters religious are profoundly indifferent. Gambetta's war cry—"Clericalism, that's the enemy!" is as fresh and omnipotent in France still, as