

I see no reason for it in the constitution of the Board of Examiners. Why must all the sections be represented? I cannot see it. The consequence of this is that gentlemen are brought down to Quebec or up to Montreal at a great inconvenience to themselves, without, it seems to me, any necessity. My idea of a Board of Examiners would be one composed of members of the Bar, taken from any part of the Province, of such standing as to make them representative of all that is good in the body and therefore above suspicion or cavil. They need not be very numerous, but they should be remunerated for the task imposed on them. Examining is work, hard work and most important work, and for this adequate remuneration should be provided.

Finally it seems to me that the matter in hand is of such importance that the council, bound as it is by its own recent resolutions and action, should deal with it with the utmost care, and at least take in a regular manner the views of the sections to which it should be referred.

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LONDON POLICE COURTS.

In this article I shall endeavor to describe the system administered by our London stipendiary magistrates. Many persons, especially those of the criminal class, who have come to regard them as an inevitable evil, one of the vices of a constitution, calling loudly for reform, will be surprised to learn that they are comparatively a modern creation.

Until 1792 the police of the metropolis was administered by the Lord Mayor and twenty-six aldermen, sitting in rotation every forenoon at the Guildhall and Mansion House for the city; and at Bow Street by three magistrates sitting in rotation every day for Westminster and those parts of Middlesex, Surrey, Herts, Essex and Kent lying within the metropolis.

Old Bow Street Police Court was nearly opposite the present one, and close to Covent Garden, then, as now, one of the worst neighborhoods in London. Is it the irony of Fate or some economic law, that among the choicest flowers of our English gardens are found our rankest human weeds, that the howl of the midnight ruffian and the oath of the harlot are heard side by side with the strains of Mozart and the voice of Patti?

"Throughout a great part of the eighteenth century," says Sir James Stephen (History of the Criminal Law of England, 1, 229-230), the business of magistrates in that part of London which was not included in the city was carried on by magistrates who were paid almost entirely by fees. What the fees precisely were, and by what law their execution was justified, I am not able to say, nor is it worth while to inquire."