

The by-law applies only to apprentices bound or engaged by written agreement, and to journeymen or other servants of both sexes bound by written agreement or verbally engaged before one or more witnesses. The omission of those formalities, in either case, carries with it nullity of proceedings. It should never be forgotten to require the presence of a witness when verbally engaging a servant.

Health matters have also been often brought before the Court during the year. The Health Officers deserve a mention from me, for I have seen them at work. They have to my personal knowledge, shown an activity which is so much more to their credit that the public is generally unfavorable to their suggestions. Many delinquents of all classes, who had not been warned enough by the last epidemic, were summoned through those officers, and I hope I have done my best to assist them in their worthy endeavors.

I cannot close this short *exposé* of our humble task, without joining with the general public in demanding as a matter of absolute necessity the codification of our by-laws. This want is naturally felt by us, who have to make daily searches for the numerous amendments made to the by-laws during the last twenty years. But to many lawyers, our four volumes of by-laws are a labyrinth compared to which the Carnival Maze was but a card castle.

From all the above, it is obvious that work has not been wanting in our office, Gentlemen, and that those who undertake to sum up, by the familiar \$1 or 8 days, the labors and importance of the Recorder's Court, are, to say the least, somewhat mistaken.

I have only praises to bestow upon the Chief of Police and his men with whom we are in daily contact. I have been able to appreciate their politeness, the discipline existing among them, and especially their devotedness to the interests of morality and good order.

As for my assistants, the zeal and intelligence they have shown in the performance of their duty are above all praise. I wish also to acknowledge that I had not relied in vain on the learned assistance of the Presiding Magistrate of the Court. This help has been so much more valuable that it was given with the greatest kindness.

Before closing, Gentlemen, I must call your attention to a change which His Honor the Recorder has allowed me to make in