

GENERAL NOTES.

NEWSPAPERS AND CRIME.—At the annual meeting of the Prisoners' Aid Association, at Toronto, the Hon. S. H. Blake, the president, said the reforms he and his confrères wish to effect include a scheme for separating all prisoners awaiting trial for charges which have not been proved against them in the preliminary investigation, from the hardened and well-known criminals. Many of these men may be innocent, but under the present system they forever carried the taint of their surroundings. One of the greatest evils of modern times, Mr. Blake said, was the daily newspaper, with its vile details of every brutal crime as instruction for beginners. Journalists tell the public how to poison folk and how to cover up crime; they have taught young women how to commit infanticide without discovery. The public trial, too, was as bad. Nothing was so disgusting to him as to have to sit in court waiting for another case while a criminal trial was in progress. The court room is crowded with boys and girls, and men and women; the nudging, the ripples of laughter, as the beastly, abominable details were elicited was horrible to contemplate. The incentive to crime supplied by the newspapers and the courts was inestimable. In the majority of cases the criminal was made before he was twenty. Prevention was better than cure. Boys arrested for breaking glass, etc., should be dealt with in a fatherly way. They should not be thrown in with a lot of criminals to be forever contaminated. A reformatory for drunkards should be provided; the present \$2 or thirty days system was a cruel farce. Poverty was not a crime, and not a single man should be in jail because he is insane or destitute. Poorhouses with work for everyone, should be insisted on.

THE LATE MR. LAFLAMME.—At a meeting of the faculty of law of McGill University, held on January 26th, the following resolution was passed:—

“That this faculty record an expression of their deep regret at the death of the late Honorable Rodolphe Laflamme, for many years one of the professors of this faculty; they desire to bear tribute to the profound scholarship and extensive experience of their regretted colleague, to his uniform kindness of demeanor towards all who came into contact with him in the faculty, whether as fellow-professors or as students. They bear testimony to the valuable services which he rendered the cause of legal education in connection with the faculty.”