

## The Legal News.

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### A SYSTEM OF LAW REPORTS.

The inconvenience of having several isolated and to some extent competing serials, for the publication of Law Reports in this Province, has been for some time apparent to the bar. In the Province of Ontario there is but one series of Reports, the property of the Law Society, the cost of which is paid out of the annual assessment levied on every practising barrister and attorney. Here we have not the advantage of a central organization, and the several sections of the bar have not hitherto united in any system of reports. We are glad to be able to announce that a vigorous effort is about to be made by private enterprise to remedy the great defect of our existing reports. In connection with the *Legal News* a system has been organized, the first instalment of which will be in the hands of the profession in a few days.

The Publishers of the *Legal News* propose to issue two series of volumes, one containing the decisions of the Court of Review and Superior Court, and the other the decisions of the Queen's Bench in Appeal. Each series will form a royal octavo volume of at least five hundred pages per annum, and it is believed that every case which can be usefully reported will be comprised in these volumes. It is not proposed, however, to include the judgments rendered in the District of Quebec, which are at present reported in the work published in that District.

The *Legal News* will continue to be issued in the same form as hitherto. Advance notes will appear in it of the cases reported in full in the regular series. It will also comprise as before, decisions of the Circuit Court, points of practice, and miscellaneous cases not falling within the regular system of reports. Thus the repetition of matter will be avoided.

The proposed system has the unanimous approval of the editors of the *Lower Canada*

*Jurist*, who for twenty-seven years past have endeavoured to supply the demand for reports. They have relinquished the *Jurist*, and it was upon notice of that fact that the present system was organized. An effort has been made to amalgamate other publications with the new project. This attempt has not been entirely successful at present, but competent aid has been secured. Mr. James Kirby continues to have the editorial charge of the entire system; Mr. E. Lafleur assumes the charge more particularly of the French reporting in the Court of Appeal, and Mr. J. J. Beauchamp of the French reporting in the Superior Court and Court of Review. These gentlemen have long been valued contributors of the *Legal News*, and in the enlarged sphere of action it is believed that their services will be still more appreciated. We think it may be said, on behalf of the publishers and editorial staff, that no effort will be spared to produce a series of reports creditable to the bar and to the Province. Under the circumstances we feel assured that the profession will give the undertaking their cordial support, and will appreciate the immense advantage of a harmonious and comprehensive system.

### THE LYNAM CASE.

The decision in *Ex parte Perry* is of special interest, this being the first case of the kind that has come before our Courts. Because Mr. Justice Jetté does not pretend to omniscience some people are not pleased. But, however painful may be the idea that a person is unnecessarily deprived of his liberty, a judge cannot but realize the immense responsibility that rests upon him in a case of this nature. The daily journals abound in examples of frightful crimes committed without any motive by persons released from asylums. A case has just happened in Indiana, in which a discharged lunatic, without any conceivable motive, emptied all the chambers of his revolver into the body of a respectable citizen. The evil of a possible groundless detention is exceeded by the risks of an improper discharge. And this leads us to say that beyond the unavoidable restriction of freedom, there should be no hardships encountered in a lunatic asylum. There