

month in the Counties, and once each week in the City of St. John. The duties of these Courts relate to the probate of wills, granting letters of administration for the estates of persons dying intestate, making orders for the distribution of such estates, and compelling executors and administrators to render exact accounts of their proceedings.

The Court of Governor and Council, for hearing and determining cases relating to marriage and divorce, consists of the Lieutenant Governor, the members of the Executive Council, and usually one or more of the Judges of the Supreme Court. It sits at Fredericton on the second Tuesday in February, and the third Tuesdays in June and October.

The Inferior Courts of Common Pleas, and General Sessions of the Peace, are held in each county four times in the year. They are presided over by three or more Judges, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the senior of whom acts as Chairman of the Magistrates at the General Sessions. On the civil side, these Courts have jurisdiction of all causes where the sum in dispute exceeds five pounds, except in cases where the title to land is involved. On the criminal side, the Sessions exercise jurisdiction over larcenies and minor offences, not involving capital punishment. The Sessions also, in counties not yet incorporated, appoint county and Parish Officers and audit their accounts, levy rates and taxes, and exercise a general supervision over Parish and County business. In three counties which are now incorporated, these duties are performed by a warden and councillors elected by the rate-payers in each parish; and doubtless, other counties will soon avail themselves of the privilege of being incorporated under the provisions of the Municipal Act.

The Justices' Courts are usually held at the residences of the Justices of the Peace in the several Counties, whenever necessary or convenient. Two Justices are competent to decide in cases of petty theft, or of assault and battery, not accompanied by wounding or aggravated circumstances. In civil suits, one Justice decides causes where the sum in dispute is less than five pounds, or the damages claimed are less than forty shillings, except where the title to lands comes in question. An appeal lies from the decision of the Justices in these cases to the Judges of the Supreme Court.