

Chief Justice Wilson in the case of *Regina v. McDonald*, 31 U. C. R. at page 339, refers to the three statutes which I have just mentioned, and says: "The exceptions contained in the last three named statutes, and the excepted cases of forgery and perjury, define as nearly as may be what the general jurisdiction of the Sessions of the Peace is: the unexcepted offences they may try."

This judgment was pronounced in 1871. Since then the Dominion Act, 37 Vict. cap. 9, was passed (in 1874), by section 118 of which it is enacted that no indictment for bribery or undue influence, personation or other corrupt practices shall be triable before any Court of Quarter or General Sessions of the Peace.

This Act refers to elections of members of the House of Commons, but it is suggested by Mr. Justice Taschereau, that perhaps the words of the section I have quoted are wide enough to extend to elections of the Local Legislature and to municipal elections.

I do not know of any other provisions limiting the jurisdiction of the Sessions. It is quite possible that some have escaped my observation as the little time at my disposal has not allowed me to make as close and thorough an examination of the statutes as I could have wished. I did not, however, expect to make this paper exhaustive of the subject. In any case which may come up for trial of an unusual character or under any special statute the provisions of the Act creating or defining the offence will always have to be carefully examined to ascertain what provisions if any, have been made as to the mode of trial.

In addition to the offences I have named, Mr. Taschereau suggests that counterfeiting coin is declared to be treason by different statutes, and consequently is not triable at the Sessions. No doubt counterfeiting the king's money in former times was treason, but under the Canadian Statutes it is expressly declared to be felony, the form of indictment given in the Criminal Procedure Act uses the word feloniously, and so do the forms I find in the books on criminal pleading. I doubt the offence now being punishable as treason.