

non-jury actions on a day specially fixed for such purpose as soon as the pleadings are at issue, and at the minimum expense to the parties concerned.

The local judges in all the provinces of the Dominion have co-ordinate jurisdiction with the Superior Court judges in the trial of almost all criminal offences, except capital and rare political offences, and about ninety per cent. of all criminal offences sent up for trial in the whole province of Ontario are disposed of before the local judges in the province of Ontario.

The County Judges Criminal Court enables the accused to have his trial take place in a few days after he has been arrested, on a date fixed for such purpose.

About seventy per cent. of all such criminal offences are disposed of by the local judges without a jury, and the province saved the expense of empanelling juries for the trial of such offences. In 1911 there were 65,000 actions commenced in the 330 Division Courts in the province of Ontario, and the local judges held about 2,000 sittings and disposed of all contested cases without a jury, except only in 119 cases.

Division Court sittings are held nearly every month in the county towns, and about every other month in the other divisions, so that litigants have their claims disposed of expeditiously and at the minimum of cost.

In the province of Ontario the jurisdiction of the county courts has been increased from \$200 to \$500 in personal actions and from \$400 to \$800 in actions where the claim is liquidated.

This legislation had the effect of increasing the number of writs issued in the county courts about fifty-five per cent., and of decreasing the number of writs in the Supreme Court of Ontario about thirty-three per cent.

In 1912 there were 5,240 actions commenced in the county courts in Ontario, and over seventy-five per cent. of the contested actions were tried by the local judges without a jury.

In many counties the local judges have adopted the practice of disposing of non-jury actions as soon as the parties are ready for trial on a date specially fixed for such purpose.

In 1912 there were 3,666 actions commenced in the Supreme