

Those who are familiar with legislation in England in former years, even as far back as the reign of King John, know that the effort now being made to reduce the high cost of living is not a new one. An interested and oppressed public wish it success.

CRIMINAL PRACTICE.

[COMMUNICATED.]

It is desirable that more attention should be paid to this branch of a lawyer's business. It is more important than it was, and there is a growing need as there is more diversity and difficulty in becoming proficient therein.

Without having any knowledge of the scope of the training in the Law School of Ontario as to criminal law or criminal practice, the writer is continually in pressed on the one hand with the tin idity of young as well as old members of the profession, who, having no hesitation in dealing with civil matters, are compelled to come into the criminal courts nervously aware that they are unprepared for their duty.

There is constant alteration to the Criminal Code and judgments on attempts to break through it. There are Orders-in-Council and extensions of Provincial statutes, which have so greatly widened crime and confused criminal practice; and, in consequence of the latter state of affairs, it is absolutely necessary for one in ordinary practice to become familiar with the practice in the Magistrate's or County Judge's Criminal Court and in Session Courts. If not he should honestly in the interest of his clients hand over to some experienced lawyers all his work in this particular line.

This sin ply arises from ignorance of the practice. It is therefore desirable that an effort should be made to give students a sufficient knowledge of the practice in the various Courts where clients may need their services.

For instance, the various lines of practice that are necessary between a summary conviction before a magistrate on which an appeal always lies, unless the statutes prohibit it; the trial of