

jurisprudence, this officer being paid by salary, so that no question as to prolonging the investigation for his own pecuniary advantage could be imputed to him? Why are Coroners generally doctors?

The evil arising from the impatience of Jurors to have investigations closed would be done away with, and where Jurors are paid, this expense would also be saved. While Jurors are required, it is just that they should be paid, but the fact that they are to be paid embarrasses the Crown Prosecutor and Coroner as to postponing inquests, even where they have good ground for supposing that additional information can be had by such adjournment.

If investigations are held by one person, with power to examine witnesses under oath, all the advantages of an inquest are obtained and a postponement would not add to the expense and would probably prove most advantageous in procuring evidence.

The duties and practice of the officer known as the Procurator Fiscal, in Scotland, or the County Crown Attorney in this Province, suggest the proper person to have charge of such investigations. When the investigations have progressed so far as to point to the person to be accused, that person might be represented by counsel, and the evidence taken thereafter could be made usable at the trial in the event of death of witnesses. There would be a saving of expense in this way. As matters are at present conducted, the County Crown Attorney is present at the investigation. The expense of the Coroner and the Jury would be saved. The evidence might be taken by a shorthand writer with the advantage of greater accuracy as to the statements actually made by witnesses. The evidence need not be transcribed in the event of the investigation resulting in a finding that death was clearly due to accident, mischance, or natural causes. The accused could have the right to be represented by counsel, and evidence taken when he was so represented might, in the case of death, or absence from the Province, be used upon the trial.

When a sufficient case had been made for laying an information, the accused could be arrested and brought before a Magistrate, as in the case of a finding by a Coroner's Jury.

If it is advisable that the person to hold such investigation should be a person skilled in medicine and surgery there should be but one Coroner in a County or group of Counties, and he a person well versed in medical jurisprudence. The proceeding pro-