

Crown, through the Attorney-General in the superior courts, and through the police in the inferior courts. A private person may prosecute if he is able to show that he has suffered some injury in consequence of the commission of the offence. If he prosecutes in a superior court, he must produce a *nolle prosequi* from the Attorney-General, and enter into a recognizance to proceed to the final determination of the trial. The Attorney-General may take up the prosecution of such a case at any stage of the proceedings. Private prosecutions, however, are practically unknown.

In the conduct of civil and criminal trials the procedure and practice are very similar to that of England, and rules of court are made from time to time by the whole body of judges, regulating the procedure and practice in the various courts. The English and Dutch languages are on an equal footing, though in the large preponderance of cases the English language is the forensic medium.

The general machinery of justice in the Union is under the supervision of the Minister of Justice, who is a member of the Cabinet. The practitioners in the inferior courts are generally attorneys and law agents, although advocates (barristers) have the right of audience. In the superior courts advocates alone have the right of audience on behalf of a client, instructed by an attorney, as in England. Women are not allowed to practise as advocates, attorneys, notaries or conveyancers. The fees of all practitioners, save where a specific agreement is made, are subject to detailed taxation by an official. There is an extensive system of *in forma pauperis* practice. In criminal cases, wherever death is a penalty, the judge has the power of assigning counsel who defends *pro deo* for a nominal fee paid by the Crown. In civil cases in which either of the parties does not possess more than ten pounds, if an advocate certifies that there is *probabilis causa*, the court, on application, assigns as advocate and attorney, who give their services gratuitously.

The judges are appointed from the members of the Bar. Both the magistrates and the judges have always been distinguished for that impartiality and independence which is characteristic of