

through the education in matters connected with the administration of justice imparted to the jurors by the charge of the judge, and acquired by them during their consideration of the cases brought before them. This makes them, and other members of the community coming in contact with them, better fitted to worthily enjoy the benefits of free institutions. I think that the more directly the people are made to take their part, and to feel that they have their part, in the administration of justice, the more likely they will be to respect and obey the law.

I think this the more important in the province of Quebec, where so very few civil suits are tried by juries.

I think, also, the knowledge that the grand jury can make public presentment to the courts denouncing neglects of duty, abuses and wrongs, exercises a salutary restraining influence of importance.

A further reason of great weight with me against the abolition is that as grand juries have in the past stood in England between the oppressor and his intended victim, so it is far from impossible, or even improbable, that in this province they may not in the future be similarly useful.

I think it quite conceivable that in times of political excitement, with the power that the crown has by means of challenges without assigning cause to secure a petit jury of a particular political complexion, the grand jury might be the main safeguard against oppression and injustice.

If not out of place I may add that eminent writers in France deplore the present non-existence of the grand jury in that country—among them Bérenger and Oudot, cited by Forsyth in his "History of Trial by Jury." pp. 351 and 352.

The demand for abolition alluded to by you in your circular may perhaps in part be accounted for by the fact that persons fond of change are prone to look only at the advantages they expect therefrom, and wait till they obtain it to discover the evils it occasions.

MR. JUSTICE LARUE.

I have the honour to state that in my experience, particularly in the district of Rimousik, the grand jurors are too much expos-

ed to outside influences. Besides, the summoning of the grand jurors is very expensive and out of proportion with the services rendered by them.

I am, therefore, of opinion that the abolition of grand juries would be desirable and in the public interest.

MR. JUSTICE LORANGER.

In my opinion, the abolition of the functions of the grand juries in relation to the administration of criminal justice, would be in the public interest. My experience when attorney general as well as that which I have acquired at the bar and in the exercise of my judicial functions, has convinced me that this institution could be replaced with advantage by a proper system of preliminary investigations coupled with the appointment of permanent crown prosecutors.

MR. JUSTICE LYNCH.

My experience as a judge is of too short duration to permit of my expressing any opinion in that capacity; that while at the bar I never saw anything in this district which would warrant the conclusion that the utility of the grand jury system had ceased. I know of nothing which would satisfactorily replace it; and I believe its abolishment would be a fatal mistake. Time and intelligence have somewhat improved the institution; and the public have come to respect it and to regard it as a necessary part of the criminal justice machinery. Possibly the manner of composing it might be improved, so that its membership would be made up of the more intelligent part of the community.

#### GENERAL NOTES.

SHORTHAND STATISTICS.—Mr. Isaac Pitman has compiled statistics on the extent to which his system of shorthand is taught in England, and the returns this year show a striking increase over those of last year. During 1889 there were 44,730 students under class instruction in Pitman's shorthand; in 1890 this number increased to 55,558, who were divided among 1,520 colleges, schools, public institutions, classes, &c. These figures by no means represent all who are learning phonography throughout the country. They do not include private students, who form the greatest proportion of those who take up the study. The statistics show an increase in every respect, but no single item shows a more striking or a more rapid growth than that which consists of statistics with reference to the teaching of phonography in the Board schools. The returns received last year showed that in the Board schools in London and the provinces the study had been taken up by 3,397 boys and 146 girls. The returns this year show 8,143 boys and 1,793 girls under instruction. These figures indicate what an impetus the study of phonography has received since the addition of shorthand to the Education Code as a 'specific subject.'