

I have acted on these principles ever since I have been on the bench, and it has been a great advantage and satisfaction to me.

I have been continually urged to write the reminiscences of my experiences in the Police Court, and in connection with it, and some of my recollections will be found in the following pages.

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I Commence Work

I had arranged, as I have said, with my brother that he was not to appear before me. We had never done any business in the Police Court, but the first day I held court, my brother's office was besieged by a crowd of litigants and defendants endeavouring to retain him to take their cases. A few days of curt refusals put a stop to these attempts at influencing my court.

For the first few days after my taking up the work the entrance to my private office was blocked in the morning by a number of plaintiffs and defendants, intending to continue a custom which had been long in existence of interviewing the Police Magistrate about their cases beforehand. They were generally provided with letters from aldermen telling the magistrate what to do in their cases. I stood in front of my door and as each letter was handed to me I opened it in the presence of the others, glanced at it hurriedly, and told the bearer to tell his alderman to come and give his evidence in open court under oath, and I would then tear the letter up in the presence of them all. As the aldermen at that time had the control over my salary, I felt it necessary to take a very firm stand at the outset. It only took about a week to stop that practice.

At that time the amount of business in the Police Court was not large, about 5,000 cases per annum. It has been increasing with marvellous rapidity. In 1880 the cases all told amounted to 5,939. In 1900 the number had increased to 9,929. Ten years

later the number was 24,826, and in 1913, 39,654; of these 3,849 were indictable offences, of which 641 were committed for trial, the remainder dealt with by me, except when I was occasionally absent, so that I must have dealt with about 3,000 indictable offences summarily, and in addition with probably 10,000 of other cases, being my share of the remainder of the cases for the year.

I might state here that a few years ago in reply to a request sent to him, I received from Sir Albert de Rutzen, the Chief Police Magistrate of London, a full statement of the cases dealt with by the police magistrates of that city. From it I find that there are fourteen police courts, with two magistrates for each, and that 198,711 cases were tried or investigated in the London courts in the year ending 13th December, 1913. This would be an average of 14,193 for each court, or 7,096 for each magistrate. In the same year Mr. Kingsford and I had 39,654 cases, an average of about twenty thousand each.

When these figures are compared with the other criminal business of the Province the contrast is amazing. The High Court of Justice, twelve judges, for the year 1912, in all the Assizes, for the forty-six counties of Ontario, dealt with 152 indictable offences. The County Court Judges in the forty-six counties in the Quarter Sessions, and the County Judges Criminal Court without a jury, in the same year, dealt with 1,247 indictable cases, making for all the judges in Ontario 1,399 indictable offences, while I had the same year 3,849, of which number 641 were committed for trial.

I doubt if there is any judge or magistrate, either in Canada or in England, who has tried as many indictable offences as I have in the last forty years, or had so wide an experience in the administration of criminal justice. In England the powers of the police magistrates are limited to six months' sentences. Mine in some cases extend to life sentences.