which would mar its provisions and deform ts symmetry," should prevail. No; on the contrary, it was manifestly intended that the tribunal established under the act should follow a procedure suited to "single seated justice," and calculated on the one hand, to guard, as far as possible, against a failure of justice, and, on the other, to preserve to persons charged with crimes all proper safeguards against indefinite charges as well as to prevent too hasty proceedings against them. In explaining the powers and purposes of the new tribunals, we shall speak of them as their practice has been elaborated in detail, under a uniform code of rules in force in every county in Ontario. On another occasion, we purpose speaking in respect to these rules, devised by the three senior members of the Board of County Judges, and which, under the fostering approval of the Attorney-General, are now the law of the several courts.

It is a matter of regret, we think, that the new law has not force all over the Dominion, that it has been extended only to this Province and the Province of Quebec. We do not know how the Maritime Provinces are circumstanced; but for this Province, as might be expected, the act has *a peculiar fitness.* Ontario is divided into thirty-six judicial districts, each composed of one or more counties, with a resident judge in each judicial district who presides over all the local courts, civil and criminal therein, each with a complete court establishment, with Sheriff and other ministerial officers, a court house, and gaol, as in English counties, and with, moreover, a local officer, whom they have not in England, *a local crown prosecutor*, to take charge of and conduct criminal prosecutions in each judicial district. In this Province, therefore, the act comes into full operation without complication or disturbance of existing institutions, and is, it seems to us, in one sense, the necessary compliment to the excellent system which was introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald by the County Crown Attorney Act.

By the act now under consideration, each local judge in Ontario sitting under the provisions of the statute, and for every purpose connected with or relating to the trial of offenders, is created a court of record. No regular sittings are appointed, but the court sits from time to time as occasion may require. The Clerk of the Peace is appointed to act as clerk of the court, and the sheriff acts in the same way as in other criminal courts.

The *jurisdiction* of the court, as respects the nature of the charge, extends to "all offences for which a prisoner may be tried at a General Session of the Peace," in other words, *to nearly every crime, short of a capital felony, known to the law;* and if convicted, "such sentence as the laws allows and the judge thinks right" may be passed upon the convicted person. The jurisdiction, however, is limited to persons committed to gaol on such charges and consenting to be tried by the judge.

The *procedure* is this: within twenty-four hours after a prisoner is committed to gaol for trial upon any such charge, the sheriff notifies the judge of the fact, and when the local prosecutor is ready to proceed (having received and examined the depositions and papers which the law requires to be laid before him for the purpose) he informs the judge, and an order is at once issued, and under it the prisoner is brought before the judge in open court. A formal accusation in the nature of an indictment describing the offence (prepared in the meantime by the public prosecutor from the depositions, &c.) is then read to the prisoner by the judge, as the charge against him. The prisoner is then informed by the judge that he has the option of being forthwith tried by the judge without the intervention of a jury, or remaining untried till the next Court of General Session of the Peace, or Oyer and Terminer. If the prisoner, as he has a right to do, declines the jurisdiction and demands a jury, he is remanded to gaol. If he consents to be tried by the judge, he is at once arraigned and called upon to plead to the accusation. If the prisoner pleads "guilty," sentence is at once passed. If his plea be "not guilty," his trial is at once proceeded with, if the crown and prisoner are both ready, or if not ready, the proceedings are adjourned to an early day. On that day the trial is entered upon, but may be further adjourned in the discretion of the judge for the purpose of completing the evidence for the crown, that is, before the prisoner has gone into his evidence; or to enable the prisoner to produce other and further evidence, of which he was not aware at the time he entered on his defence, as being material thereto. The rule as to the other proceedings and as to evidence at the trial is the same as in ordinary