

Now, if the care applied to the four acts for real property reform of 1833 had been applied to the one act of 1832, its extension to Ireland need not have been delayed for twenty-six years.

In the present session, of Lord Cairns' three Real Property Bills, one was at once applied to Ireland—the second was applied by a clause introduced in committee, its provisions depending on the Judicature Bill, which had not been introduced when it was read a first time.

The third act for facilitating the transfer of land does not extend to Ireland the, existence of the Landed Estates Court, Record of Title Office, and Registry of Deeds, applicable to the whole country, present sufficient reasons for its extension not being attempted in the same session.

V.—*Report of Committee on Suggestions for Diminishing the Excessive Summoning of Jurors in the County and City of Dublin.*

[Read Tuesday, 23rd June, 1874.]

THE Committee met at Messrs. Pim's, 22, William-street, on Friday the 12th June, Alderman Campbell, J.P., in the chair; also present, Mr. Frederic W. Pim, Mr. Richard W. Kelly, Mr. Joseph T. Pim, Mr. Thomas Edmondson, and Dr. Hancock; and after investigating the subject referred to them by the Council of the Society, adopted the following report:

1.—*Sir Colman O'Loughlen's Reform as to Queen's Bench Grand Juries.*

In 1873 there were about 3,300 jurors summoned in the County of Dublin, and 4,500 in the City of Dublin, or nearly 8,000 in both.

This number will be diminished in future years by Sir Colman O'Loughlen's Act of 1873, to regulate the summoning of Grand Juries in the Queen's Bench.

Until Michaelmas Term, 1873, there were four Grand Juries for the County of Dublin, and four Grand Juries for the City, summoned each year to attend in the Queen's Bench. The ordinary criminal business of these grand juries was taken from them in 1729, nearly one hundred and fifty years ago, and transferred to the Commission Court now held at Green-street. The fiscal business of the County Grand Juries was in 1786 confined to two of the four Term Grand Juries in the year, and in 1844 was confined to the single Term Grand Jury for Easter Term. The fiscal business of the four City Grand Juries was transferred to the Town Council in 1850. These juries, except the Easter Term Grand Jury for the County, had consequently no ordinary business to do. In the rare case of a trial at bar or indictment, or in the case of appointing the officers of city prisons which (by an oversight) had not been transferred to the Town Council, there was some duty to be discharged. It appears, therefore, that with these exceptions, for fifty-eight years, from 1786 to 1846, it may be estimated that 60 county jurors were annually

summoned with no duty to perform, and for the last thirty years, 90 county grand jurors were each year unnecessarily summoned. Since 1850, to 1873, 120 city grand jurors were unnecessarily summoned.

Similar abuses existed in England until 1872, when they were remedied by the Middlesex Grand Jury Act, 35 & 36 Vic. c. 52, which provided that Term Grand Juries should be summoned only when they were wanted.

In 1873 Sir Colman O'Loughlen extended this reform to Ireland, by 36 & 37 Vic. c. 66. No City Term Grand Juries will be summoned at all, unless there is business to be discharged; and the County Term Grand Jury will be summoned in the Easter, or Presenting Term only, unless there should be a trial at bar on indictment.

The effect of Sir Colman O'Loughlen's reforms is to save, in the present and future years, the summoning in the year of 210 jurors.

2.—*Mr. Molloy's Suggestion for extending the principle of single venue, established at Middlesex, in 1834, to the Commission Court at Green-street.*

In 1834 the City of London, the County of Middlesex, and parts of the Counties of Kent and Surrey, were made a single venue of all trials at the Central Criminal Court.

In a paper read before this Society, in 1867, Mr. Molloy suggested that this reform should be extended to the Commission Court at Green-street. It appears that if this were done, it would save the summoning of about 1,000 jurors in the year. Under the Judicature Bill it is proposed to reduce the number of judges attending the Commission Court from two to one, and the Committee think it of equal importance to save the time of jurors by diminishing unnecessary attendances. The Committee recommend the adoption of this suggestion. The city has quite outgrown the civic boundaries, and in the case of police, the Metropolitan Police are employed for several miles beyond the city boundaries.

3.—*Dr. Hancock's Suggestion that there should be a single venue for the County and City, in cases at the Superior Courts.*

In his evidence before the Municipal Privileges Committee, Dr. Hancock suggested that there should be a single venue for the county and city, for all cases at the superior courts.

Owing to the extension of railways and tramways, a large number of the people carrying on business in the city reside in the county, and to secure an adequate city jury list from the extra number of jurors required in the city, it has been necessary to bring those resident in the county on the city list, in respect of their place of business, and to allow them to remove themselves off the county list.

The county and city have thus become practically identified, whilst these suburban citizens are put to great inconvenience either of double service, or of the steps to change their venues.

The effect of Dr. Hancock's suggestion would save the summon-

ing of about 1,500 jurors, and the Committee recommend its adoption.

4.—*The Extension of Chief Justice Whiteside's Circuit Reform to the Superior Courts in Dublin.*

Before 1853, there was a separate panel for crown cases at the assizes, and another for common juries in civil cases. Chief Justice Whiteside carried a reform of this twenty years ago, by which there was a single general panel for both the civil and criminal courts. At present there are five distinct panels of Common Jurors, often summoned to the Four Courts for the same term, viz., for the three Superior Courts, the Probate Court, and the Consolidated Nisi Prius Court; and four panels of Special Jurors for the City, and corresponding number for the County, making eighteen panels of jurors in all at the same time. The Committee think that there should be but one panel of Common and one panel of Special Jurors for all the courts at the same time.

If this single panel contained double the number usual on a distinct panel, at present there would be, allowing for the single venue being adopted, a saving in the summoning of jurors of nearly 800 services.

If the single venue were not adopted, and the saving of 1,500 proposed to be effected by it were not carried out, the saving under this head would be about 1,600 instead of 800.

The Committee recommend the extension of Chief Justice Whiteside's reform to the juries summoned at the Four Courts.

5.—*Suggested abolition of Market Juries.*

One of the causes of a larger number of jurors in the city than the county, is the 192 jurors (or 48 at each quarter sessions) for market juries. They are summoned under an old act of the Irish Parliament of 1774 (13 & 24 Geo. III. c. 22, s. 73) to discharge duties connected with weights and measures, and with sale of unwholesome food or food fraudulently made up. These duties were imposed before any proper police was organized in Dublin, but are really police duties, and are not now, in fact, performed by the jurors.

On the principle sanctioned of dispensing with Term Grand Juries when their duties have ceased, the swearing of the Market Juries should be discontinued. This would effect a saving of 192 jurors being sworn in the city each year.

6.—*Suggested abolition of Quarter Sessions Grand Juries.*

By Lord Hartington's Jury Act of 1873, the attendance of Special Jurors at the Quarter Sessions Grand Juries does not count in the rotation, so that, considering the demand on Special Jurors in Dublin county and city, this is a very serious extra duty on them. This raises the question as to the utility of Quarter Sessions Grand Juries.

In Scotland, where there is a complete system of public prosecution under the Lord Advocate, like the Irish system under the

Attorney-General, there is no Grand Jury at the courts corresponding to the Irish Quarter Sessions.

The Grand Juries are mainly of use under the English system, where prosecutions are left almost entirely to private prosecutors.

If the right of private prosecutors in Ireland to prefer indictments was confined to the Assizes, to the Queen's Bench, and the Commission Court at Green-street, and persons might be put on their trial at the Quarter Sessions on the complaint of the Attorney General, or on a charge approved of by a bench of magistrates without indictment, this reform would save the summoning of about 400 Special Jurors in the year.

7.—*Summary of conclusions.*

There are about 1,500 jurors summoned for Lunacy Commissions, Master's Inquiries, and other purposes, as to which no suggestions have been submitted to the Committee, and the Committee have not consequently investigated the necessity of their being summoned. As to the remaining 6,300 jurors summoned in the year, the effect of the different reforms would be as follows :

	Reduction in number of Jurors summoned in year.
Sir Colman O'Loghlen's reform, as to Term Grand Juries	200
Mr. Molloy's suggestion of single venue at Green-street	1,000
Dr. Hancock's suggestion of single venue at Four Courts	1,500
Extension of Chief Justice Whiteside's single panel for both courts on circuit, to single panels for all the courts at Four Courts	800
Abolition of Market Juries	200
Abolition of Quarter Sessions Grand Juries	400
	<hr/>
Total reduction in number of jurors sum- moned in the year	4,200
 The number of jurors at present summoned for the purposes effected by the changes	 6,300
Number of jurors that would be summoned if the different reforms were adopted ..	2,100

The Committee are convinced that this reduction in the number of jurors summoned would be a substantial relief to men of business, and would secure a more punctual attendance, and a saving of time in empanelling jurors, without damage to the administration of justice.

They feel convinced that if the other occasions for which 1,500 jurors were summoned in the year were examined in a similar way, that a still further reduction might be effected in the number of

jurors summoned in the City and County of Dublin, and they propose to make a further report upon any suggestions they may receive on this subject.

JOHN CAMPBELL, *Chairman.*

W. NEILSON HANCOCK, *Secretary.*

VI.—*On the Statistics of Insanity, Past and Present.* By William J. Corbet, Esq.

[Read Tuesday, 21st April, 1874]

At this particular juncture in our social existence, when mental culture—the development of the intellectual faculties of mankind—claims pre-eminent consideration on all sides, and fills with anxiety the minds of the profoundest thinkers, the foremost statesmen, and the most disinterested philanthropists of the age; when primary, intermediary, and university education are the watchwords of the sentinels who keep guard over the rights and privileges of the people, it cannot be uninteresting briefly to consider what is the mental condition of the masses who are to be affected by such beneficent intentions; whether, in fact, the familiar phrase “*mens sana in corpore sano*,” which embraces so much—expressing as it does, when applied to individuals, the “*summum bonum*,” the perfection of physical and intellectual well-being, can at this moment be fitly used to express the condition of the mass of mortality signified by the noun of multitude—“public.”

In selecting for consideration so momentous, yet so little understood a theme—from the contemplation of which the mind shrinks with a natural aversion to dwell upon a subject at once so painful and so inscrutable—I have set before myself a task that should be left to far abler hands; but a daily experience of matters connected with the care of the insane, extending now to a period of over a quarter of a century, has emboldened me to raise my humble voice in this room, where the voices of so many of the wisest, and ablest, and most philanthropic of Ireland’s sons have so often been lifted up in the advocacy of great social reforms. I propose, therefore, to take a dip into the ocean, or rather “the gulf stream,” of the statistics of insanity, which flows steadily along, “apparently” gathering breadth, depth, and strength annually as it flows.

Of the subject in a psychological sense, it is not my intention in any way to treat. That branch of the question should be left to those to whom it properly belongs, and of whom this country boasts not a few, who, from their distinguished attainments, and their great and prolonged experience in the study of mental science and in the treatment of mental disease, know, it cannot be doubted, as much as probably can be known on a subject so full of mystery; and are as highly qualified to discuss its theories, if indeed there are any such defined or established theories, as are their professional brethren of any other country in the world. Disclaiming, therefore, what would be a great assumption on my part, I shall confine myself exclusively to statistical facts.