

GRAND JURIES MAY BE BANNED BY CONANT BILL

Incorporate Features
of Barlow Report in
Judicature Act Changes

EFFECT ECONOMIES

Abolition of the grand jury, and other far-reaching proposals to improve the administration of justice, are contained in an amendment to the Judicature Act which Attorney-General Gordon Conant will introduce today in the Legislature.

The amendments to be introduced as a Government measure climax years of effort on the part of many bodies to obtain some basic changes in the administration of justice in Ontario, and they grow directly out of the Barlow report which was made public by the Attorney-General last July. No statement on the contents of the bill was available from the Attorney-General last night, but it is understood the measure incorporates many of the recommendations contained in the Barlow report.

In making public the result of the six months' survey by Fred H. Barlow, K.C., Master of the Supreme Court of Ontario, Mr. Conant said last July 19: "It (the report) contains some very constructive suggestions. If put into effect they would save considerable money for the taxpayers of the Province. Furthermore, the administration of justice would be greatly expedited."

At that time Mr. Conant said he was "very hopeful" that many, if not all, of the recommendations would be adopted in Ontario. It is no secret that the Attorney-General has long held the view that grand juries no longer served any useful purpose in the administrative machinery; that it is costly and cumbersome and has become a drag on the effective administration of justice.

The main Barlow report, issued in December, 1939, recommended drastic changes in the entire set-up of the law's machinery, and there is no doubt that some of these recommendations will be contained in the Judicature Act amendments.

Mr. Barlow recommended: Consolidation of the county court, the court of general sessions of the

Peace, the County Judges' Criminal Court and the Surrogate Court into one court to be known as "The County and Probate Court of the County of —"; abolition of the coroner's jury except in cases of death in public places or under suspicious circumstances; abolition of the officer of Court Crier; dividing of the Province into judicial districts and numerous other changes designed to expedite the administration of justice and effect economies.

The commissioner further recommended that the Province establish a central place of execution for the carrying out of all death sentences.

The savings to be effected by adoption of some of the major recommendations in the Barlow reports are substantial enough to be extremely worth while, apart entirely from all other considerations, according to those well acquainted with the problem.

PLAN TO ASSIST PROSPECTORS

An amendment to the Securities Act designed to encourage mining prospectors was introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Attorney-General Gordon Conant. Mr. Conant said the bill aimed at giving impetus to prospectors' expeditions and the promotion of such expeditions.

The bill provides that upon the filing of a prospecting syndicate agreement with the Provincial Secretary or a mining recorder the liability of the members of the syndicate or parties to the agreement shall be limited to the extent provided by the terms of such agreement, provided that the sole purpose of the syndicate is the financing of prospecting expeditions or preliminary mining development, or both. The agreement limits the capital of the syndicate to a sum not exceeding \$10,000.

"Prospecting is a vital part of the mining industry," said the Attorney-General. "We are seeking in the bill to encourage prospecting and the financing of prospecting expeditions when the capital does not exceed \$10,000."