

The officers of this Court consist of a Chief Clerk, elected by the votes of the people, two assistant Clerks, Crier, Interpreter and seven Bailiffs.

Your Committee are satisfied, after full inquiry, that the services of the Crier, and at least two of the Bailiffs might be dispensed with without in the least degree interrupting the successful course of Justice, and at the same time save in the fees of these officers \$2,720 00 per annum. It is also advised that the practice of allowing a compensation to all persons summoned as talesmen whether placed on the jury or not, be discontinued, and that no compensation be allowed to any but such as are empaneled and required to do actual duty. This practice of paying talesmen, and another practice, still more pernicious, of returning the same set of jurors from year to year has brought to the jury-box, term after term, men who seem to have made jury duty a sort of profession, a trade, a means of support, and in order that they may not be overlooked are constantly hanging about the court rooms. Such practices are well calculated to bring contempt upon the most sacred of our institutions, and weaken confidence in an enlightened and impartial administration of justice. Another practice most reprehensible, and which your committee regret to find has been sanctioned by the bench, is that of allowing juries freely to indulge in intoxicating drinks while on duty. The following bills out of many others show some of the results of this practice. We indulge the hope that a proper sense of regard for the opinions of men will lead to its discontinuance. It is proper that juries empaneled upon cases, the nature of which will not allow them to separate until their verdicts are rendered, should be decently provided for, but excesses of all kinds are at once to be rebuked. Great impositions have been practiced in the charges, or juries have indulged in free living to an extent which would unfit them for the high duties required of them.

We can but condemn the practice of allowing the free use of intoxicating drinks to juries whether furnished at their own, or at the public expense as one alike against good morals, and sound policy, and well calculated to impair, if not wholly destroy confidence in the value and efficiency of so valuable a provision in our Judicial economy, and it is the more to be regretted because it is sanctioned by those whom we might with reason have hoped would seek rather to sustain and keep unsullied our temples of justice than pollute and tarnish them.

The following are some of the bills of expenses incurred by juries under an order of the court. Some changes have been made recently which promise better things for the future.