

advocated a smaller committee and was disappointed at the constitution of the committee which it felt to be somewhat unwieldy. However, it is understood that the Committee will carry out most of its work through sub-committees which will submit their reports direct to the Attorney-General for the Government's consideration.

Despite the measure of disappointment to which reference has been made, the Council feels, and is sure that all members of the Association will agree, that the appointment of the Committee is an important advance towards law reform in this State.

Special Committees

The first two of the terms of reference set out above cover subject matters already receiving attention from the Council which had, before the short vacation decided to set up five committees to collate material and to formulate views relating to various problems connected with the administration of Justice and the efficient handling of the business of the courts. The work of these committees, whose constitution and terms of reference are set out below, is particularly important as they will provide the Association with carefully formulated and well documented views which it can place before the official Law Reform Committee when it embarks upon its work.

Membership and Terms of Reference

Committee I: Meares, Q.C., Kerr, Q.C., McGregor, Helsham, Yeldham.

- (a) Pre-trial procedure.
- (b) Appointment of Master or Business Manager.
- (c) The judicial functions performed by the Prothonotary.
- (d) Methods of listing cases.
- (e) Saving of judicial time.

Committee II: Moffitt, Q.C., Hicks, Q.C., Needham, K. G. Gee, G. Smith.

- (a) Adoption of the rule of strict liability or modification of the present law as to contributory negligence.
- (b) The submitting of specific questions to juries in civil actions in preference to taking a general verdict.
- (c) Power in an Appellate Court to substitute a verdict for a jury's verdict.
- (d) The present constitution of the Criminal Appeals Court.

Committee III: Riley, Q.C., Byers, Q.C., Robson, Waddell, Simos.

- (a) Constitution of a permanent Appellate Court or courts.
- (b) The adoption in whole or part of preparing written cases in Appellate jurisdictions.
- (c) The allocation of judicial work.
- (d) The wisdom of reserving judgments for substantial periods of time.

Committee IV: Bowen, Q.C., Rath, Q.C., Glass, R. J. B. St. John, Conacher, R. D. Meagher.

- (a) The fusion of Law and Equity.
- (b) The right to grant declaratory relief.
- (c) Stream-lining of equity procedure.
- (d) Adoption of Judicature Act system of pleading.
- (e) Co-ordination of procedure in various jurisdiction in Supreme Court.

Committee V: Reynolds, Q.C., Davoren, Q.C., Samuels, Fisher, Wran.

Coronial and Magisterial Enquiries.

The International Commission of Jurists— Australian Section

Readers of the "Gazette" will already be acquainted with the general nature and objects of the International Commission of Jurists, which was founded in 1952 for the object of upholding the Rule of Law and human rights, as an outline of its history is contained in 31 Australian Law Journal 870. We set out below information about the Australian Section of the Commission, which will interest members of the Bar.

The Australian Section of the Commission was formed in 1958 under the presidency of Sir Owen Dixon, and its membership now consists of more than 350 members throughout Australia. Branches of the Section are being formed in every State.

In addition to establishing the Section and the State Branches, the Council of the Australian Section has already concerned itself with a number of matters affecting human rights and the Rule of Law in Australia, and has arranged addresses about them in some capital cities.

Australian members took part in the Congress of the Commission held in New Delhi in 1959, and attended as observers at the South African Treason Trial and the Eichmann Trial. At the present time, the Section is conducting a Survey on the operation of the Rule of Law in Australia, as part of a world-wide survey sponsored by the Commission.

All judges and magistrates, practising lawyers, teachers of law, and law students are eligible for membership. Members receive the publications of the Commission from its headquarters in Geneva. Persons joining the Australian Section now will also receive prior publications of the Commission touching on matters of interest and concern to lawyers. Application forms may be obtained from Grogan, the present Secretary-General of the Australian Section.

The Commission has arranged a public meeting for **Tuesday, 28th November, 1961**, at 8 p.m. at Stawell Hall, 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney, when an address will be given by Kerr, Q.C., on the subject "Human Rights in New Guinea". All persons interested, whether they are members of the Section or not, are invited to attend.