

element in the exercise of judicial patronage, it is doomed to failure from the outset. Your Minister of Justice would be a Minister of the Crown, whose office would come to an end with every change of Government; and as duties would be in no sense judicial he would be far more likely to be plunged in the welter of party politics than the Lord Chancellor now is. In another part of his interesting address Mr. Garrett deplores our antiquated circuit system. He is not the first to make a complaint on this head; but the man who can suggest a better system has yet to be born.

EMERGENCY LEGISLATION.

Statutes and orders rendered necessary by the war, which are compendiously described as "emergency legislation" continue to occupy the attention of Parliament and the Government departments. One would have to go back many centuries in order to find in the statute book laws which are anything like as "sumptuary" as those which are now daily coming into force. The most drastic are those which derive their authority from rules made under the Defence of the Realm Acts. Thus it is now a criminal offence merely to have in the house more food than is reasonably necessary for present consumption. Who would have thought five years ago that this would ever become part of the law of England? Yet there it is—and is being daily enforced with the utmost vigour. It is for the local justices of the peace, sitting at petty sessions, to try cases in which people are charged with food hoarding. As might have been expected, the punishment does not always appear to fit the crime; but this may be partly due to the fact that in some parts of the country, notably Yorkshire and Scotland, it has always been the custom for the housewife to have a well filled store-cupboard. In London, on the other hand, the store-cupboard is often non-existent, seldom well charged and very rarely kept locked. So each case in each part of the country must be decided on its own merits. A serious thought arises in many minds concerning this particular law—namely: How long will it remain in force? Will the war and food troubles be co-terminous? These are questions which I