

tiffs' title as mortgagees, and to the plaintiffs' action to enforce their mortgage set up the Statute of Limitations as a defence, upon which they succeeded. The plaintiffs were lulled into a fatal sense of security by the due payment of interest on their debt, but the result of this action has revealed to them the somewhat unpleasant fact that the security of the land on which they were relying for the recovery of their principal money has insensibly slipped from beneath them.

JUDGES: THEIR WORK AND SALARIES.

The remuneration of public or judicial officers is a somewhat delicate subject to discuss, as it is a matter, to some extent, personal to themselves. When a man accepts an office, he knows just what salary he will be entitled to; and if he chooses to give up a more lucrative position for the peace, pleasure, or honour of a public office, that is his own business, and scarcely warrants public criticism as to the terms of the acceptance. It is also to be presumed that an impersonal body, such as a Government, acting for the Crown, will take care to provide sufficient remuneration for those whom it employs, more particularly those connected with an important matter like the administration of justice.

It is, however, admitted that the distinguished occupants of the Bench in Ontario are not sufficiently paid for their services. The question whether they could earn more in the practice of their profession as members of the Bar is not material. A certain amount of work is required of them, and for this work they ought to be liberally rewarded. The salary of a Chief Justice ought to be in keeping with his office, and that of a puisne judge should be quite high enough to satisfy every reasonable ambition, so that the extra allowance to the chief of the division ought not to be an element in the desire of his brethren to fill his chair. Then the increased cost of living in Toronto ought to be taken into consideration. What was fair compensation ten or fifteen years ago is much below what would be adequate now. The cost of houses (and judges are sufficiently mortal to require some degree of shelter) is double what it was a few years ago, and we feel safe in stating that the cost of living, as distinguished from the value or rent of residences, is at least one-third greater than it was when many of the present judges received their appointment. The actual work of our courts has certainly quadrupled in the same period. We refer not only to the large increase in the number of cases which are tried and appealed, but also to the expenditure of mental power in keeping pace with the marvellous growth of case and statutory law. Causes cannot now be tried, as many of them formerly were at *visu prius*, on the lines of what is commonly known as "horse sense." At every turn, the court is confronted with precept and precedent. In every corner, statutory amendments and enactments lurk, unseen by the casual observer, to entrap the unwary and unread judge. In fact, the judicial life has become one of unceasing toil, and he who would decide cases on "general principles" nowadays would soon discover himself being weighed in the balance of some appellate tribunal and found wanting. We do not mean for a moment to be understood by this as intimating that our judges are either unwary or unread. Far from it. We