

business together gave Judge Watters. Now that the Speedy Trials' Act has removed all inequalities so far as criminal jurisdiction is concerned, and impose new burdens, not of labour alone, but of disbursements for travel and expenses away from home on the other County Court judges—those who have several counties in their districts—it is to be hoped that this glaring and offensive distinction in respect to salary may be removed; not removed by levelling down, but by levelling up. For, in the present conditions of life in these Provinces, \$3,000 a year should be the minimum which any gentleman fit for the high office of a District Judge should have. Unlike County Court judges of Ontario, those in the Maritime Provinces have no other official emoluments than their salaries, and cannot earn any more, whether always busy or not; while those in Nova Scotia have a higher jurisdiction in civil cases, and, as I have pointed out, those of New Brunswick a higher one in criminal matters, than any other County Court judges in the Dominion.

In Nova Scotia, a somewhat similar case to that of the late Judge Watters presents itself. A judge is still living who accepted the county judgeships for three very important counties, in the full belief that it was a legitimate and natural stepping-stone to the higher court. Unanimous and strongly-worded memorials were, in due time, sent up from the Bar of the three counties, and the numerous Bar of an adjacent county, and other leading barristers, supported by what ought to have been strong parliamentary influence, praying for the advancement to which the Bar and the public held him entitled; to this the only answer was that he should not have taken the lower, for otherwise he would soon have got the higher office—an acknowledgment, without a practical recognition, of his eminent fitness for the position sought, while vacancies in the court above were now and again filled by men admittedly less competent than he. After the lamented death of Judge Rigby, and the retirement for a still more eminent sphere of usefulness of the present Minister of Justice from the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, it was evident throughout the Province that the signal loss the Bench sustained could only be repaired by drawing, as early as practicable, from the resources of the County Court Bench; and, without disparaging our Supreme Court, or any of its members, it is very evident that there are more than one of them whose places might