

compensation that we offer them for their services. We boast of our judiciary, and claim that it is at least abreast of that of any country in the world—we think it is, perhaps, a little more than abreast, because the judges of Canada stand in a category peculiar to themselves. They are recognized wherever they are known as men of integrity, of painstaking habits and great capacity, and certainly they are deserving of much larger compensation than they receive. It is a matter of fact now that it is impossible, when vacancies arise, to select men in the first rank of the profession. It is important that such men should be chosen, men who are familiar with the events of the day, because the character of the business that is now before the courts differs greatly from that which came before the courts some years ago. The cases are becoming more intricate and complicated, much larger sums are involved, and more important matters come up than had to be dealt with in the early history of this country, but the salaries have not kept pace with the character of the business. It is a very great mistake in any community to underpay or undervalue the services of the judges. They are the most important men in the community. They are the men who decide all our disputes of the highest character, cases involving hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is left to them, and it is a matter of the highest consequence, when vacancies occur, that men in the first rank of the profession, who are in the swim of the business of the country, should be selected to fill them. I will not mention names, but a dozen names must occur to anyone familiar with the profession, especially in the two larger provinces of Ontario and Quebec, of gentlemen who would not accept a position on the bench with the salaries attached to them at present. I have in my mind's eye a gentleman who has been frequently offered the highest position on the bench, but he says: "No; my income is three times larger than the salary; why should I present my services to the country? I can make fifteen to twenty thousand dollars a year and not work as hard as the judges do." I know several men in the profession in Ontario who can make that amount, and who, if asked to take a seat on the bench,

would refuse to sacrifice themselves for the benefit of the country. On the other side of the line it is different. I was not aware that this question was coming up to-day. I have not, therefore, prepared myself with the figures; but anyone who will refer to the statistics of the United States will find that the salaries paid the judges there are more than double the salaries paid to judges in Ontario and Quebec. We are proud of our judges, and we should compensate them. The cost of living has increased of late years; the cost of keeping up a social state has grown of late years, and this country would be warranted in paying the judiciary higher salaries. From time to time the subject has been brought up elsewhere, and governments have promised to consider it. As far as I can gather, the difficulty seems to be in adjusting between the several provinces, because it is felt that the business in some of the provinces is very much greater than in other provinces. It does not seem fair; the bench expected it and were entitled to look for it. I hope the Premier will see his way to adjusting this question.

Hon. Mr. Allan—I should like to add a few words to what has been said on this subject. I am quite sure that I express the opinion, not merely of the members of the profession in Ontario, but of very large numbers of laymen, who think that the present salaries of judges of the Superior Courts are altogether inadequate. My hon. friend here has spoken of the necessity of the judges keeping up a certain social state befitting their position, but it would be an absurdity for them to attempt anything of the kind. In the present condition of things, I know, and I think I can speak with some degree of certainty on the matter, that the great majority of our judges, unless they have private means, would find it impossible to entertain or show that hospitality befitting their position. Besides, everyone knows that in the last few years the cost of living has greatly increased and is out of all proportion to what it was when compared with the salaries of judges 25 years ago. I can confirm also what has been said by the hon. member from Ottawa, and it is a fact of which we in Ontario are all perfectly aware, that many gentlemen