

SOME time ago we called attention to some serious charges which were made against Judge Palmer, of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick, in connection with his judicial position. The matter was brought before the Minister of Justice, but, it would seem, not in the manner which he thought necessary to require him to take any action. He seemed to indicate, however, that the judge need expect no mercy should the matter come up in a formal way. The judge has now done the only thing left for him to do, and that is to resign. It is, happily, not often that this country has to deplore unseemly conduct in its judges, and this one exception in many years indicates by contrast the high standing of our judiciary. It is stated in the public prints that a number of other matters have come to light, which would seem to challenge enquiry. The fountain of justice must be kept pure, and the country cannot afford to treat lightly any iniquity in high places.

THE FEE SYSTEM.

The fee system, in connection with the administration of justice, municipal and otherwise, has recently come under discussion. Whilst we might regret that it should necessarily, perhaps, have become more or less a political question, and so outside of our domain, the subject is, nevertheless, one which we cannot ignore, in view of the fact that it is intimately connected with the interests of the legal profession.

We are glad to notice that the Attorney-General has recognized the importance of the question involved, and has promised to consider it in all its bearings, and has, we understand, appointed a commission to collect information, and report. It might, perhaps, be remarked, with reference to this commission, that the information already in possession of the Government should be sufficient to show that the time has more than come when the fee system should, in a great measure, at least, be abolished as a relic of a bygone age—one of those vicious things which the conservatism of officialism has let live, and the supposed necessity of party politics has conserved. One result of it certainly has been that the public has had to pay (and here we speak with special reference to the fee system as applied to the registry law) very large sums for the support of useless officials,