
THE JUDGES ACT.

As we go to press we notice that a bill has been introduced in the Senate amending the Judges Act. Not having an opportunity of examining the bill we cannot go into any detailed criticism. As to one of its provisions we have always held the opinion that Judges should not, except under very exceptional circumstances, be taken away from their judicial duties and serve on commissions. It is also a provision of the bill that judges, upon retiring, should receive a pension of only two-thirds of their salary instead of the whole amount as under the present Act, and this would seem to apply to judges already appointed. In view of the inadequate salary paid to our Supreme Court Judges this provision would be most unfair, especially if it is intended to apply to those who already hold office. The salaries of the Supreme Court Judges are entirely inadequate and should be increased rather than diminished. You cannot have a first-rate article without paying for it, and it is most important in the interests of the public that the best men at the Bar should have a special financial inducement to give up a lucrative practice and go on the bench. The honour, of course, is great, but the salary should bear some proportion, not only to the honour, but to the financial sacrifice. The present inducements are not sufficient.

A clause which requires a Judge to make a sworn declaration that he has received no remuneration outside his official salary before he can demand his salary is an improper one and should be struck out.

War Notes.

LEGISLATION AS TO FOOD PROFITS.

THERE have been quite ample disclosures of illicit trading in foodstuffs to the detriment of consumers to satisfy some drastic action by Parliament to put a stop to such victimisation of the public in relation to commodities essential to all. The Bill to come before the Legislature directly the Houses reassemble is one based upon the Defence of the Realm Regulations, and its object is to penalise overcharges for foodstuffs. Persons who sell goods at prices in excess of those permitted by the Food Controller are to forfeit to His Majesty a sum equal to double the amount of the excess charged. In any proceedings taken to