

tioned. The bill is a very proper one, and Mr. Doherty is to be commended for his determination to correct the abuse.

There is another defect in the law which seems to be no less open to condemnation than that respecting the judges' travelling expenses, and Mr. Doherty, as Minister of Justice, is the official to whom the public may properly look for remedial legislation.

The whole theory of the law respecting the pensions of judges contemplates that a judge shall continue to discharge his duties on the bench until he has reached an advanced age or has become disqualified by physical or mental infirmity. That unquestionably is the spirit of the law. It is claimed, however, that under the letter of the law a judge who retires on a pension, presumably because of his infirmity, may afterwards become a member of Parliament, drawing his indemnity, and also a Minister of the Crown, drawing his salary, and that thus he may draw from the Dominion treasury, at the same moment, pension, indemnity and salary. It needs no argument to prove that this would be an abuse. As respects the indemnity of a member of Parliament, there is room for debate. A retired judge, not well enough to discharge the duties of the bench, might be able to give some of his time to attendance in the House of Commons, where, subject to the will of his constituents, he may do as little or as much work as he pleases. Perhaps if the electors of a district are content to be served by one so disabled for more arduous duties, nobody else need complain. But as respects the office of a Minister of the Crown, there is really no room for debate. For a man to retire from the bench, draw a large pension, and then become a Minister of the Crown, with arduous duties and a considerable salary, would not be a pleasing spectacle. It is claimed that the letter of the law allows such a transaction. The letter of the law apparently allows the judges to collect certain fees improperly. Mr. Doherty very justly moves to make the letter and the spirit of the law agree. Parliament should insist on the speedy enactment of a law that will do the same justice as respects the drawing of salary and pension. If an official is properly qualified to discharge the duty of a most responsible office, and to draw the considerable salary attached to it, he is certainly not properly qualified to draw a large pension at the same time.

### The Salaried Class

THE Minister of Finance is carrying through the House of Commons a measure designed to give moderate increases to the Ottawa officials of the lower grades, whose salaries are low, and who, therefore, must feel most keenly the very great increase that has taken place in the cost of living. The movement is very necessary, and the Minister's bill is not likely to have much, if any, opposition. It is upon the salaried class, whether in official life or in private business, that the increased cost of living falls most severely. Those who are commonly spoken of as the working classes—an unhappy expression, for in Canada almost every man is a worker—have in most cases received some wage increase to compensate for the higher prices of commodities, though probably in only a few specialized lines do the higher wages make full amends. The salaried classes do not so readily share in the advance of remuneration. In official life most salaries are regulated by law, and law amending is usually a slow process. In private business the salaried clerk or other officer of that rank finds increases in-

of chaplains by the Militia Department were not at all in harmony with these figures. The Roman Catholics have the largest number of chaplains in the service, the Presbyterians come second, the Anglicans third, the Methodists fourth, and the Baptists fifth. The particularly large proportion of Anglicans who enlisted is doubtless explained by the fact that—especially in the case of the earlier enlistments—so many of the volunteers were natives of England. But that does not explain the remarkable disparity between the proportions of the clergy of the various denominations appointed to the chaplaincy service. Possibly the Militia authorities meant to pay a delicate compliment to the efficiency of the Anglican Church in peace time by assuming that the Anglican soldiers had been so well trained in religious matters that they had less need of the benefit of clergy than the other fellows. If it could be made clear that this was the official view, the Archbishop might be disposed to withdraw his complaint.

frequent. These are the people to whom the problem of increased cost of living comes home most sharply, and whose situation is deserving of the generous consideration of their employers.

In the case of the Civil Service at Ottawa, perhaps the increases now proposed for the lower grades of the service are not more than might fairly be adopted permanently. The Ministers, in dealing further with the special condition arising from the war, might do well to consider the propriety of making additional allowances in the form of a war bonus, which would remain during the war, and cease on a restoration of normal conditions. If it is hard to advance salaries, it is harder to reduce them. Additions in the form of salaries in war time may not easily be taken away when the war ends. A special grant to meet the war situation and cease when the day of lower prices comes would be a fair arrangement.

### Politics on the Prairies

AFTER a strenuous political campaign, the Government of Hon. A. L. Sifton has been sustained by a majority nearly as large as it had in the last Legislature. The trend of the Western electors towards the Liberal party remains, it is evident, in Alberta. A curious fact in the returns is the result in the two chief cities of the Province, Edmonton, the capital, and Calgary. There is a little rivalry between the two cities, a thing not unusual with towns similarly located. Edmonton has hitherto divided its representation, while Calgary has been strongly Conservative. In the election last week Edmonton returned all three of its members on the Conservative side, while Calgary elected only one Conservative, who has for his colleagues a Liberal and a Liberal-Labor member.

Saskatchewan also is indulging in a general election, the campaign for which has just been opened. The Liberals have been in control since the beginning of the organization of the Province. A change of leadership took place some months ago, when, on the retirement of Hon. Walter Scott, Mr. W. M. Martin resigned his seat in the House of Commons to enter the Saskatchewan Legislature as Premier. Hon. Mr. Martin is now making his first general appeal to the electors of the Province.

### Embarrassing Statistics

THERE is a common saying which implies that statistics are not to be relied on. Let us hope that this is the case, or at all events that there is some misunderstanding capable of explanation, as respects some figures used by the Anglican Archbishop of Nova Scotia in an address at the opening of the Synod in Halifax a few days ago. Dr. Worrel, in referring to the war, spoke of the efforts of his clergy to do "their bit" in the way of service as chaplains, and remarked that they had been "cold-shouldered by the Militia Department in a way by no means creditable to the heads of that Department." According to the Government's figures, the Archbishop said, no less than 44 per cent. of the Canadian troops were members of the Church of England. Of 354,868 enlisted, 165,145 were Anglicans, 70,671 Presbyterians, 51,426 Roman Catholics, 35,908 Methodists, 18,458 Baptists, 851 Jews, and 12,409 others. The percentages of population of the several denominations enlisted were: Anglicans, 15.8; Presbyterians 6.3, Baptists 4.4, Methodists 3.3, Roman Catholics 1.8, and Jews 1.1. The Archbishop was grieved to find that the allotments

WAR gives some small compensations for its horrors. One is that until peace comes no more buildings of the skyscraper class will be erected in the United States. The steel is needed for more urgent purposes. Even great bridges will not now be undertaken. The skyscraper builders must stop their operations. This will be unsatisfactory news to some people particularly interested, but it will be welcome news to a great many persons who regard these modern structures of great height as architectural monstrosities, and menaces to public safety. In New York skyscraper construction had become almost a craze. No sooner was one tall building finished and presented to an astonished world as the highest structure on earth than somebody announced that another building still higher was to be undertaken. Other cities are following on the same line. Perhaps in New York there is more excuse than elsewhere for the existence of such buildings. A vast volume of business presses for transaction in a narrow strip of land. There is reluctance on the part of some lines of business to move beyond the downtown district. Since space is not available on or near the ground it is sought in the air. The skyscrapers of New York are among the wonders of the modern world. There is a disposition to adopt the skyscrapers in other cities, where there is much less excuse for them than in the great metropolis of America. It is a tendency that should be discouraged and resisted. London is a pretty busy place. Quite a few people congregate there, and carry on a considerable volume of business. But the skyscraper is neither encouraged nor tolerated. There are building regulations which restrict the height of buildings to figures that are held to be reasonable and safe. It is better that the example of London be followed than that of New York.

### The Skyscraper

WAR gives some small compensations for its horrors. One is that until peace comes no more buildings of the skyscraper class will be erected in the United States. The steel is needed for more urgent purposes. Even great bridges will not now be undertaken. The skyscraper builders must stop their operations. This will be unsatisfactory news to some people particularly interested, but it will be welcome news to a great many persons who regard these modern structures of great height as architectural monstrosities, and menaces to public safety. In New York skyscraper construction had become almost a craze. No sooner was one tall building finished and presented to an astonished world as the highest structure on earth than somebody announced that another building still higher was to be undertaken. Other cities are following on the same line. Perhaps in New York there is more excuse than elsewhere for the existence of such buildings. A vast volume of business presses for transaction in a narrow strip of land. There is reluctance on the part of some lines of business to move beyond the downtown district. Since space is not available on or near the ground it is sought in the air. The skyscrapers of New York are among the wonders of the modern world. There is a disposition to adopt the skyscrapers in other cities, where there is much less excuse for them than in the great metropolis of America. It is a tendency that should be discouraged and resisted. London is a pretty busy place. Quite a few people congregate there, and carry on a considerable volume of business. But the skyscraper is neither encouraged nor tolerated. There are building regulations which restrict the height of buildings to figures that are held to be reasonable and safe. It is better that the example of London be followed than that of New York.

### An Important Resignation

THE news comes from Ottawa that Hon. Mr. Patenaude, the Secretary of State, has resigned his office because of his unwillingness to support military conscription. This is an event of the gravest importance, for it indicates the further drawing of dangerous lines in the public affairs of the Dominion. The time calls for calm and thoughtful consideration of the position by all who are interested in public affairs.