

County Court judges have no jurisdiction in capital cases—which are of rare occurrence. In civil matters and actions for debt their jurisdiction goes up to \$400 and down to \$200, which comprises most of the cases; therefore, they are really called upon to do as important work almost as the judges of the Supreme Court, while their salary is only \$2,000, as compared with \$4,000 of the judges of the Supreme Court. I believe that after a certain number of years' service their salary is increased to \$2,400. There is too great a discrepancy in the salaries of these two classes of judges. I voice what I believe to be the opinion of the profession in my province; therefore, I respectfully call the attention of the Premier to this matter, so that if an arrangement is to be made the discrepancy between the salaries of the two classes of judges in New Brunswick should be made less than what it is now—that the salaries of the County Court judges should be increased. Two thousand dollars a year is not a sufficient salary for a man where the jurisdiction is so large and the responsibility so great. Two thousand a year is only the earnings of an ordinary lawyer; it is not sufficient for a judge of the County Court. Judges of our County Courts are men of talent, and many of them could with advantage sit on the Supreme Court bench. Most of them were necessarily good lawyers, and if their position has been a political recompense they have a good record at the bar as well.

Hon. Mr. Dever—The hon. gentleman does not mean that all the County Court judges in New Brunswick only receive a salary of \$2,000?

Hon. Mr. Poirier—They are appointed, I believe, on a salary of \$2,000, which is increased to \$2,400 after three years' service. That may not be correct, but I think it is.

Hon. Mr. Abbott—The subject of this discussion is certainly well worthy of the time that has been taken up, and the Government is very sensible, and has been for some time, of its importance and of the necessity of dealing with it. It has already made a serious effort within the last two or three years to do so, unsuccessfully, in consequence of the great difference of opinion which appears to exist in the representative body as to the position

the judges should hold with regard to salary. It appears to me that the discussion which has taken place here affords a very excellent object lesson as to the extent of these difficulties. While almost every hon. gentleman thinks the salary of the judges should be increased, the views as to the extent and nature of that increase are as numerous as the number of gentlemen who spoke on the subject. It is this kind of difference of opinion—and, in fact, there are many kinds of differences of opinion about this subject—which renders it so exceedingly difficult to deal with. In the House of Commons, where a measure was introduced for the purpose of increasing the salaries, the diversity of opinion was so strong, and finally the opposition was so strong, that it was found impossible to proceed with the Bill. Now, to-day my hon. friend on my left thinks evidently that the salaries are large enough, that there were as good judges in his province at \$2,400 a year as there are now at \$4,000 a year, and I think that is very probable. For I remember, at a shorter date probably than my hon. friend himself could remember, when a man could live in this country for one-half the amount he can live on now—when the fortunes which judges, in attempting to maintain their social rank, had to compete with were not one-tenth or one-hundredth part of what they are now. It is not so long ago when the sight of a millionaire would have attracted crowds in the street: now there is not a town in the country where you could not find men who are several times millionaires. The cost of living is greater. Men threaten a change of dynasty, or a reconstruction of society because they do not get the same price for eggs as that which they got last year. But eggs this year were three or four times as costly as they were in those years. And so with regard to other articles of food, and to clothing. It may be that in some respects the necessities of life have not increased, but the requisites for maintaining one's social position have increased ten-fold, and it is impossible, as hon. gentlemen concur in saying, for the best men in the country to be induced to take positions on the bench at the rates which we now pay in the larger centres of business and trade. My hon. friend from Ottawa ap-