

During that period, which has been the life of the nation to which we belong, we have seen throughout very large increases, beginning with the indemnity of the members of Parliament, and increases in salaries of Ministers, and increases in the salaries of almost every public officer down to the bottom, and yet the salaries of judges have remained stationary. Nor can it be said that the wants of those judges and the purposes for which salaries have been given have been lessened during that period. On the contrary, I think we must all admit that not only have the exigencies of their position been greater, but their salaries have remained in a position which scarcely enables them to maintain the social position which they occupy, much less meet the increased cost of living. My hon. friend, who will answer this question, whom we have all gladly welcomed as the leader of this Government, will hardly wish to see the American system introduced into this country. I am quite sure he would shrink from the idea of any judge being obliged to descend from the bench into the forensic arena in order to obtain a living for himself and family. I do not wish to make any suggestions, and I trust that in the few observations that I have made I have not imported anything into the question of a controversial character.

Hon. Mr. Kaulbach—This is not exactly in the nature of a question, and therefore I think I am in order in making a few remarks on the subject. I quite agree with my hon. friend in all that he has said, as to the necessity for the effective administration of justice, of gentlemen occupying such high positions being paid suitable salaries. I also appreciate the skilful manner in which he has brought this question before the House and the Government. It involves a money vote, and the hon. gentleman has put his question in such a manner that it is not open to objection on that score. I am sorry that he has confined his remarks to the judges of the Superior Courts. The inadequacy of salary of which he complains is not confined to those judges, but extends also to the County Court judges. There is a remarkable instance of the kind in Halifax. Hon. gentlemen know that the judge of the County Court of Halifax

is a man of the highest standing, learned in the law, and having most important duties to perform. The public have confidence in his judgments. The amount of work that he does exceeds that of a Superior Court judge, and, in fact, is larger than the work done by all the other County Court judges in the province. He has a social position as high as that of any judge of the Superior Court, and the cases which come before him require as great knowledge of law and judicial capacity as those which come before the highest courts. I brought this matter before the Minister of Justice some years ago, and he saw the injustice that was done to that gentleman, but he felt that he could not very well take an isolated case. He promised that some time in the future—in the not far future—the whole question of the judges' salaries would be considered, and he thought that this was a case that was worthy the consideration of Parliament. I hope, therefore, that the Government will specially consider this case to which I have referred. Something must be done to remedy the injustice which has been done so long to the County Court judge at Halifax.

Hon. Mr. Scott—I am very glad that the hon. gentleman from Nova Scotia has brought up this subject, although it is one that has been from time to time brought before the notice of Parliament in another place during the last ten years. Speaking more particularly of the Province of Ontario, with which I am familiar, I do not hesitate to say that the judges of the higher courts are very much underpaid. The hon. gentleman expressed the hope that we would not have to adopt the American system. There is one feature of that system that I approve of—that is, the remuneration of the judges. The salaries paid to judges of the New York courts are at least twice as large as those paid to judges of the High Court of Justice or the Court of Appeals in Ontario. I do not think in any part of the world judges perform more work or are more painstaking than in the Province of Ontario, and it is quite probable, so far as my observations go, that the remark would equally apply to the other provinces; but I am familiar with the judges of Ontario, and I think we do not show the high appreciation in which those judges ought to be held in the