

mercial Paper," etc., etc. For giving instruction on legal topics the Institute had the services of a Professor from the Minnesota Law School. Manifestly any bank officer who paid serious attention to such a course would have his mind enlarged, and his mental equipment for his calling considerably improved.

The prospectus of the American Institute sets out in detail the various courses of study, which are very comprehensive and practical. The members are under no form of compulsion as to the studies they will take up, or the time they chose to devote to them. The formulation of a Canadian Institute on the same lines is a question worthy the serious consideration of the Canadian Bankers' Association.

#### JUDGES' SALARIES.

The Government has so far complied with public opinion in regard to the inadequacy of judge's salaries as to have had the following resolution introduced in the House of Commons which was at once passed in Committee:—

That it is expedient to provide that the salary of the Senior Judge of the Circuit Court of the District of Montreal, shall be \$3,600 per annum.

The House then went into Committee on the following resolution, moved by Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick:

That it is expedient to amend the Act respecting the Judges of Provincial Courts and to provide as follows:

1. That the salary of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the North-West Territories shall be \$5,000 and of the four Puisne Judges of the said court each \$4,000 per annum.

2. That the salary of an additional Judge of the Territorial Court of the Yukon Territory shall be \$5,000 per annum.

3. That the salaries of the seventeen Puisne Judges of the Superior Court of Quebec, whose residences are fixed at Montreal or Quebec (including the Judge to whom the District of Terrebonne is assigned), shall be each \$5,000 per annum.

Messrs. Borden and Prior respectively urged that the judges in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia have increased salaries. The Premier said the whole question was receiving the attention of the Ministers. Some difficulty arises from the Provincial Governments having the power to fix the number of judges, while their appointment and payment rests with the Dominion Government, which is very anomalous. One member pointed out that a junior judge had just been appointed in Oxford where only eight cases were tried last year, whilst in Dundas there were two who only had eleven cases last year. He suggested that there should be fewer judges, then the Superior Court judges could be better paid. The paucity of cases referred to is no argument against the increase of salary to those who are hard worked. The fact, however, that certain judges are only occu-

pied one or two weeks in the year proves the necessity for a better organisation of the judiciary so as to distribute the duties more evenly. Probably some of the judges whose office is almost a sinecure might be dispensed with.

#### CANADA'S INTEREST IN THE CHINESE QUESTION.

(Contributed.)

There are Montrealers, and there are a great many Canadians, who are practically interested in the Chinese situation, just as all Canadians are sentimentally interested in it on account of the imperial tie of loyalty which binds them to the motherland, whose soldiers are taking an active part in the military operations going forward in that great and curious Oriental Empire. Those Canadians who are directly concerned in Chinese matters must be wondering at the length of time it is taking to restore peace, tranquillity, and, as a consequence, normal commercial relations, with the country of Li Hung Chang, Prince Ching, Prince Tuan, the Empress Dowager, and other potentates.

What is the reason for all the delays, the postponements, the broken promises, the diplomatic contradictions, the false rumors, which have characterized, and which still characterize, the Chinese situation? One would think that the presence of troops and representatives from all the great powers of Europe, as well as from the United States, would, long ago, have had the effect of settling the questions involved. But a settlement seems to be as far off now as when the allies landed and rescued the foreign ministers from the murderous designs of the Boxers. Several explanations suggest themselves. The determination of all the Powers, except the United States, to obtain possession of large and fertile tracts of Chinese territory is evidently the main obstacle in the way of peace. Russia, will be very loth to relinquish her hold upon Manchuria. The bone of contention between England and France would appear to be the rich and vast region known as the Yang-Tse valley. Germany's desires and designs, beyond the exaction of a monetary indemnity, are not yet clear. The only ground for thankfulness on the part of Canadians, is that the Emperor William has recognized that it is to his interest to act in alliance with Great Britain in order to offset the alliance between Russia and France.

Another difficulty is the impossibility of dealing directly with the Emperor or the Empress. Li Hung Chang and his companions may be humbugging the Powers or not; their actions and intentions are alike mysterious. That "Dead Sea of man," China, is the strongest agglomeration of people in the world. The absence of newspapers, railways, and telegraphs, keep the masses in utter ignorance of the events which have transpired in and near Peking and other districts where foreign troops are stationed. They know nothing yet even about the defeat some years ago of China by Japan. They are quietly and industriously working