

tice and the establishment of the Police Force in the North-West Territories. He stated that the object of this Bill was to amend only two clauses, 26 and 25 of the existing law. These two clauses were re-enacted almost entirely with the addition of some provisions respecting desertions, which were not made an offence in the present Act, and there was no provision for the punishment of deserters. The present Bill made desertion an offence punishable by fine. Under the present law the Commissioner alone had the power of punishing offences. By the present Bill it was proposed to extend that Bill to the Assistant Commissioner and other officers in command, so that any commanding officer in an isolated position would have the same power as the Commissioner in relation to the offences mentioned in the Act. The second clause of this Bill, amending Section 25 of the present act, provided that any deserter found in any of the Provinces might be sued, fined and imprisoned for his offence.

Bill read a first time.

SALARIES OF JUDGES.

Hon. Mr. FOURNIER moved the House into Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions on the subject of the salaries of the County Court Judges of the Province of Nova Scotia; also to consider certain resolutions respecting salaries proposed to be paid to the Chief Justice and Judges mentioned in the Bill No. 31 to establish a Supreme Court and a Court of Exchequer for the Dominion of Canada. Mr. SCATCHERD in the chair.

Hon. Mr. FOURNIER said that by an Act recently passed in the Province of Nova Scotia it had been provided that seven County Court Judges should be appointed, and for that reason it became the duty of Parliament to provide for the salaries of those Judges. By the resolutions which he would submit to the Committee those Judges would be placed on the same footing as the County Judges of Ontario and New Brunswick, their salaries, travelling and retiring allowances being the same. He proposed to change the resolutions so as to place the County Court Judge of the City and County of Halifax on the same footing as that of the City and County of St. John, who received \$2,600 salary and travelling allowance, because the population of the two districts

was about the same and about the same amount of business came before each Court. He therefore proposed the following resolution:

1. That it is expedient to provide that the salaries of the County Court Judges of the Province of Nova Scotia shall be as follows, namely:—

To seven County Court Judges, each, not less than \$1,000, and not more than \$2,000, to be fixed by the Governor in Council, and that a sum not exceeding \$200 for actual travelling expenses to be fixed as aforesaid, may be allowed to any of the County Court Judges, except the County Court Judge of the City and County of Halifax, whose salary shall be \$2,600.

2. That it is expedient to provide that the said County Court Judges shall be subject, as regards retiring allowances or annuities based upon their salaries above mentioned, as is provided in respect to County Court Judges in either of the Provinces of Ontario, New Brunswick or Prince Edward Island, by the provisions of the 37th Vic., Ch. 4, sec. 8.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE said that some years ago the salaries of the County Court Judges in Ontario were arranged upon the principle—although not with respect to figures—what was laid down in the resolution before the House—that was to say—that there was a certain minimum and maximum between which the Governor in Council was empowered from time to time to fix and determine their salaries. That plan had not worked well in practice. It was found that those persons who received increases of salary were not just the persons who were best entitled to them; and irrespective of that he thought there was a theoretical as well as a practical objection to the Judges being dependent for their salaries upon the goodwill of the Government of the day. It was quite true, at this age of the world, that this objection was less substantial in practice than was formerly the case, but he did not know any sufficient reason why Parliament should delegate its powers with respect to the question of the salaries of the Judges, he advanced in this matter within the last two or three years under the late Administration to a more correct principle, and the salaries of the Judges in Ontario were not now determined on the principle laid down in this resolution.

Hon. Mr. Fournier.