

of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, and why should such a difference exist in the salaries of the judges? It is utterly indefensible, and I hope the matter will engage the attention of the Minister of Justice. I believe he possesses some knowledge of the personality of the judges of Prince Edward Island, and I should like to hear from him whether he is prepared to defend the present system, or to recommend that they should be put on an equality with the judges of the other Provinces. This matter was brought to the attention of the Government by a memorial—which I believe was unanswerable—from the judges of the island three years ago, at the time the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) asked for a committee to consider the salaries of the judges of the different Provinces. He contended at that time, and I think with a great deal of justice, that the salaries paid to the judges of Ontario were too small, and not such as to obtain for the bench the best talent at the bar. I do hope this matter will receive the attention of the Government at an early day, and that some endeavor will be made to put the judges of Prince Edward Island on an equality with those of the other Provinces.

Mr. CAMPBELL (Kent). Before this item is passed, I wish to call the attention of the Government to a circumstance in the county I have the honor to represent. Last year when the Franchise Bill was brought into operation, it was thought necessary that a junior judge should be appointed, so that he could act as revising officer. Before his appointment, the Government asked the senior judge of that county whether he wanted an assistant, and he replied that he did not, that he was quite competent to perform the duties of the position. He is a young man, in the prime of life, and quite qualified to perform all those duties; but when the Government made up their minds to put into operation the Franchise Act, they took the precaution to appoint a junior judge. Now, when the First Minister proposes to suspend the operation of that Act for a year at least, and consequently the services of the junior judge will not be required, I think it would be only right that he should be dispensed with, and that the salary now paid to him should be saved to the country. I can assure you there is no necessity whatever for a junior judge for that county, unless it may be as revising officer. And I may say further that I do not think the Government could possibly have made a more unsuitable appointment than the one they made. The junior judge is a man of 65 or 70 years of age, and the senior judge is about 35 or 40. The proposition was recently made by a member of the bar of Chatham, and a Conservative, that the members of the bar should unite and pay this senior judge to take the Division Court cases, and allow the junior judge to retain his salary and do nothing. It has been represented to me by all the members of the bar there, that the cost to the county and to litigants is largely increased by the appointment of this junior judge. He is a man that every member of the bar has admitted to be not at all qualified for the position; and now the Government in proposing to suspend the operation of the Franchise Act, are really proposing to take away the ground on which the junior judge was appointed, and I think it would be only right and proper that the country should save the large expense now entailed on the county by dispensing with his services.

Mr. THOMPSON. Will the hon. member inform me when the appointment was made?

Mr. CAMPBELL (Kent). About a year ago.

Mr. THOMPSON. I will state for the hon. gentleman's information that no such letter as he refers to was ever received from the senior judge of his county; nor since I have had the honor of filling the office I occupy, has any junior judge been appointed to any county in Ontario or anywhere else where any representation by any reliable authority has

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been made that his services were not required. In all cases, when appointments have been made, strong recommendations have come from the bar, and in nearly all cases from the senior judge, of the necessity of appointing a junior. But I will call the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that the appointment of junior judges in the Province of Ontario is not by the exercise of any arbitrary power on the part of this Government. There is a statute of the Province of Ontario which authorises us to appoint a junior judge in any county where the population reaches 40,000; but instead of exercising the full patronage which that statute gives us, we have passed an Order in Council stipulating that there shall be at least a population of 60,000 before the appointment of a junior judge shall be made; and in the particular case he refers to, not only were there strong representations of the necessity of appointing a junior judge, but we had 50 per cent. more population to be provided for judicially than the statute of Ontario required. I have not the pleasure of being personally acquainted with the person who has been appointed; but from the representations made with regard to his standing in the profession I must differ from the hon. gentleman as to his qualifications. From my own knowledge I can say that the hon. gentleman is not strictly accurate in stating that the profession in his county have unanimously agreed that he is not qualified for the position, because I have had representations of a different kind from them. My hon. friend from Prince Edward Island has expressed his strong wish to hear from me on the subject of the judicial salaries in his own Province; but I am sorry that I can say nothing that will be very gratifying to him with regard to any increase in judicial salaries this year. I quite understand the inequalities he refers to. I can only say that the inequality in the salaries of the judges in the Vice-Admiralty Court is of very long standing. When our predecessors in office undertook to deal with this subject and to increase the salaries of the judges, they continued the inequality that existed between the salaries paid in the larger Provinces and those paid in the smaller. I am not prepared to say that I entirely concur in the wisdom or fairness of the discrimination that was then made; but in reply to the hon. member for Prince Edward Island, I must say that while very strong and very just representations have been made from various quarters in regard to judicial salaries, and these representations have been strongly pressed from the Province of Ontario, I am not able to promise that this year, at any rate, any provision will be made for an increase.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I am a little surprised to hear the statement of the Minister of Justice that no communication emanated from Judge Bell in reference to the appointment of a junior judge. I have the statement from the senior judge himself that he told the Government he did not want an assistant. It is a well known fact that he did not want one, and he has told me since, on different occasions, he would a great deal rather the Government had not appointed a junior judge. So far as the members of the bar are concerned, I am satisfied the Minister of Justice does not know the feeling of the bar in the county of Kent. I am satisfied that nine-tenths of the members of the bar there are of opinion that the junior judge is not at all fitted for the position.

Mr. O'BRIEN. As this question of judges' salaries has been raised, I wish to take the opportunity of expressing the opinion, which, I believe, in Ontario, at any rate, is shared in by all educated people, both within and outside the profession, who give any thought to the subject, that the salaries of the judges, as a rule, are not adequate to the importance of the duties they have to perform, and to the class of men who are competent to perform them. I am sorry, therefore, to hear the hon. the Minister of Justice say that the Government have made up their minds that for this