

than wait for the sittings of the Supreme Court. The county court judge starts with a salary of \$2,500 a year and the maximum is \$3,000 so that if it is necessary to give some judges \$6,000 and \$7,000—and I do not think it is at all too much—the government will understand that \$3,000 is infinitely too small for a judge to maintain the dignity of his office. It is highly in the interests of the community that our judges should be well paid and that the county court judges should be as nearly as possible placed in the same independent position as the judges of the Superior Courts. I commend to the Prime Minister what has been so well said by the hon. member for Carleton, N.B.

Mr. KYTE. I desire to supplement the observations made by my hon. friend from North Cape Breton (Mr. McKenzie) in support of the increase in the salaries of county court judges. I more particularly have reference to the county court judge in District No. 7, province of Nova Scotia, which includes the city of Sydney and three of the counties of the Island of Cape Breton. The jurisdiction of the county court judge of that district extends over a population of 120,000 and it is by far the largest constituency that any county court judge has in the province of Nova Scotia or in the maritime provinces so far as I am aware. My hon. friend (Mr. McKenzie) has spoken of the enormous amount of business that the county court judge there has to do, and I may point out that that business is increasing all the time. There is no resident judge of the Supreme Court in that part of the province of Nova Scotia, and a large number of matters that are dealt with by Supreme Court judges in other parts of the maritime provinces have to come before him. Some years ago there was a re-adjustment of the salaries of the county court judges of the Dominion, and I think it was intended that special consideration should be given to the salary of the county court judge resident in the city of Sydney. For some reason or other the consideration to which he was entitled was overlooked, and the salary which was intended to be given to him equal to the salary of the county court judge of Halifax, was not apportioned to him. Apart altogether from the question whether or not the Prime Minister is disposed to consider the whole matter of increasing the salaries of the county court judges of the maritime provinces, I think the case of the county court judge of district No. 7 in Nova Scotia is entitled to special consideration and should be specially dealt with.

Mr. KNOWLES. My hon. friends from the maritime provinces, who have spoken of the propriety of increasing the salaries

Mr. McKENZIE.

of the district court judges have undoubtedly made out a strong case. Every argument they have submitted applies to the judges of the province from where I come. If it is their duty to speak on behalf of the county court bench in their province, much more is it the duty of the representatives of the province of Saskatchewan to call attention to the remuneration of the district court judges in that province. At present the salaries paid to judges in the west are the same as those paid in Nova Scotia. Even if it is a debatable point whether or not salaries in Nova Scotia should be increased, that fact makes it almost conclusive that they should be raised in Saskatchewan. As every body knows, the cost of living and raising a family, and all the expenses to which a judge is put in order to maintain his position, socially and otherwise, are much greater in the west than in the east. It is an anomaly that judges in the western provinces are not paid higher salaries, and a very generous increase should be given to them, especially in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Another point to be remembered is that the practice of the bar in the western provinces is much more remunerative than it is in Nova Scotia. The members of the legal profession in the province of Saskatchewan, as a rule, earn twice as much as they do in some of the older provinces by the sea. For that reason, as well as because of the greater expense of living, a larger remuneration should be given the judges. In the province of Saskatchewan we have a splendid district court bench. It is occupied by men who have gone on the bench desiring to make good and who have made good, and I think their services should be generously recognized by the government. With regard to the paragraph in this resolution in which provision is made for an additional district court judge of the province of Saskatchewan at the salary named, it goes without saying that he must be a junior judge, because there are eight districts in the province, and all are filled at present. I quite approve of this provision, because some of our judges are at present overworked. In my own district, the judicial district of Moosejaw, Judge Ouseley, a very able and diligent judge, is at present doing three men's work. Is the Prime Minister able to tell me in what district it is proposed to place this additional judge?

Mr. BORDEN. I regret that I cannot give my hon. friend the information. In respect to all the provisions for increasing the number of judges in the different provinces, I understand that this legislation is brought forward in order to supplement