

The Legal News.

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Another movement is being made towards an increase of the judges' salaries. Deputations of the bar of Ontario and Quebec are in communication with the Minister of Justice on the subject, and it is hoped that a measure will be introduced in the next Session of Parliament.

Baron Huddleston, in charging the grand jury at the Warwickshire Assizes last month, made some remarkable statements with reference to charges brought under the Criminal Law Amendment Act. The learned judge said there were two criminal charges in the calendar, made under a recent Act of Parliament which had given, as it was expected it would give, great trouble and anxiety to those who were entrusted with the administration of justice. He meant the Criminal Law Amendment Act, which the Legislature, prompted by many excellent persons with the best intentions, passed for the purpose of preventing, as it was alleged, outrages and crimes upon women and children. No doubt it was most desirable that severe punishment should follow upon those who were guilty of the horrible crime of immorality with little children, but he ventured to express his great doubt—a doubt arising from an experience of Courts of justice of nearly fifty years, a doubt fortified by an experience as a judge twelve years—whether it was to the advantage of the public to afford greater facilities for charges of a particular sort which were made by adult females against men. He believed he was giving the experience of his learned brothers when he said that *the majority of these charges were untrue*. Some were put forward by women for the purpose of shielding their own shame, sometimes for the purpose of extorting money, sometimes even, as he had known happen, by women for the mere purpose of getting their expenses paid and a trip to the assize town, some-

times from no conceivable motive whatever. He had in his recollection three cases in that Court in which charges were brought by women against men, in which it was proved without doubt that all those three cases were utterly false and without the slightest foundation. In one of those instances a man was convicted and sentenced to five years' penal servitude, but circumstances appeared in the course of the case which seemed to him to require investigation. Investigation took place, and the result was that the accused was liberated, but not before having been several months in prison. Such instances taught them that in these cases men wanted protection rather than women. He pointed out that it was criminal to be unduly intimate with a girl under sixteen years of age, and remarked that this part of the Act gave rise to charges of an extraordinary character. Calendars were full of them almost at every assize. He referred to a case at Exeter in which men were charged with immorality with girls under sixteen, but who looked quite thirty, remarking that he was afraid that the prosecution was taken by an over-zealous policeman, who thought it pleasant to spend a few days in the autumn at the assizes, in order to relieve him of his ordinary duties. Such cases were extraordinary when it was remembered that the Act made it a defence if the man had reason to believe the girl was over sixteen. Probably when more cases of this description were brought before Courts there might be reason to induce the Legislature to reconsider that branch of the Act.

Les journaux de Paris, annoncent la mort de M. Demolombe, l'éminent professeur et doyen honoraire de la faculté de droit de Caën. M. Demolombe était né à la Fère, en 1804; après avoir fait ses études de droit à Paris, il fut reçu docteur en 1826; il jouissait alors déjà d'une brillante réputation parmi ses condisciples et ses professeurs. Dès l'année suivante, M. Demolombe passait, par dispense d'âge, le concours de l'agrégation; il était nommé professeur suppléant à la faculté de Caën. Un nouveau concours, qui eut lieu en 1831, et pour lequel le jeune professeur dut de rechef solliciter la