

*JUDICIAL SALARIES.*

The need for an increase in the salaries of the Judges, if the country is to have the services of those best qualified for the duties of the Bench, has frequently been dwelt upon in these columns. The subject is now attracting the special attention of the profession; and those of the public who are competent to form an opinion upon it fully concur in the views which have been expressed at the meetings of the Bar in various parts of the Province.

It is evident that more than ever promotion to the Bench is made the reward for political services, and that what should be the prizes of an honourable profession can more easily be gained by the adroit partizan than by the man who has made the study of law his great object in life. It is not, however, our object at present to dwell upon the evil conditions of things in that respect, but rather to suggest possible remedies, so far at least as the question of salary is concerned.

One great difficulty in the way of re-adjusting, upon an adequate basis, the salaries of the judges of the Province of Ontario arises from the demand which comes from the other Provinces, especially from Quebec, that any increase must apply to all the Provinces alike, no matter how much less the work, or less important the duties in those Provinces as compared with Ontario. There is at the present time a demand for an increase in the Provincial subsidies, especially with regard to the cost of the administration of justice. It seems, therefore, a fitting opportunity to deal with this question of salaries.

When the appointment of judges was left in the hands of the Dominion Government it was expected, on the principle that the higher the source of power the more pure would be its exercise, that the selection of men for the Bench would be free from local bias and local influence, and be more likely to be made in the interests of the public and the profession than if left to the Provinces. It may be that a less exalted motive had something to do with the matter, and those who framed the scheme of Confederation being practical politicians as well as far-seeing statesmen, were desirous of retaining so important an element of patronage, or perhaps it was thought essential to the more smooth working of parliamentary government. No doubt also the diffi-