

COUNTY JUDGES, THEIR LABOURS AND THEIR PAY.

The law as laid down by the Chancellor and Court of Common Pleas will, in many cases, work a great hardship and injustice upon sheriffs, and not only upon them, but upon unfortunate debtors. The natural effect of it will be that sheriffs, instead of dealing leniently with debtors and facilitating any arrangement between the parties which would tend to the settlement or satisfaction of the debt without the loss and annoyance of a forced sale for cash, will proceed to make the money under the execution without delay, and perhaps entirely deprive the debtor of the power of making some settlement which might save him from ruin.

It is probable, therefore, that sheriffs will make some effort to have such a change made in the law, as will place themselves and execution debtors in a better position in the premises.

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In the beginning of the present year, a circular was issued from the Bureau of Agriculture and Statistics, calling upon various public functionaries to answer a number of questions in relation to their offices, which information was wanted for the Blue Book of 1864. The following are the questions:

- 1st.—Name of office?
- 2d.—Name (or names) of incumbent (or incumbents) within the year 1864?
- 3d.—Date (or dates) of appointment?
- 4th.—By whom appointed?
- 5th.—Amount of annual salary?
- 6th.—Amount received in fees?
- 7th.—Remarks (if necessary).
- 8th.—Number of years of service as public officer in any capacity whatever, mentioning the date of first appointment?

One of these circulars was addressed to a County Judge, who, in answering the questions, gave some information which we hope our legislators will take a note of when they next propose to impose a few more labours upon their "beasts of burthen," as County Judges have been forcibly called.

The answers to the questions, as given by the learned gentleman that we allude to, are as follows:

- 1st.—The office I hold is Judge of the County Court of the County of _____.
- 2d.—My name is _____.

3rd.—The date of my appointment was _____.

4th.—My appointment was by the Provincial Government, under the Great Seal of the Province of Canada, during the administration of —.

5th.—My salary is \$2,600.

6th.—I receive a travelling allowance of \$200, as Judge of the Division Courts. I receive fees as *ex officio* Judge of the Surrogate Court, which, in 1864, amounted to \$70 50. I am paid \$4 per diem as *ex officio* selector of jurors, under the U. C. Jurors Act, which, in 1864, amounted to \$24.

7th.—Remarks.—As Judge of the County Court, I am *ex officio* Judge of the Surrogate Court; Judge of the several Division Courts of the County; Chairman of the Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace; a Selector of Jurors, under the Jurors' Act; a Ballotter of Militia, under the General Militia Law; an Auditor of Accounts connected with the administration of justice; with various other *ex officio* offices and duties to perform under several of the Railway Acts, the Extradition Act, the continued Bankruptcy Act, the Common Law Procedure Acts, the Chancery Act, the General Election Law, the Common School Acts, the Absconding Debtors' Act, the Act respecting Arrest and Imprisonment for Debt, the Municipal Acts, the Insolvent Debtors' Act, the Insolvent Act of 1864, the General Road Company's Acts, the Act respecting the Partition of Real Estate, the Act respecting the Registry of Deeds, &c., the Overholding Tenants Act, the Act respecting the Support of Insane Destitute Persons, several Criminal Acts, the Assessment Acts, and various other statutes (in all upwards of twenty), which I cannot enumerate or remember: for any one of which, (excepting for those I have named in my answers numbered 5 and 6 respectively, and the occasional duties under the General Election law), I receive no salary, fees or allowance—not even for stationery, light, fuel or travelling expenses. All these duties are imposed by the different statutes I have referred to; and there are some new duties imposed upon the County Judge almost every session of Parliament, without any remuneration or fees being prescribed therefor. No provision or pension whatever is provided in case of inability from old age, accident, exposure, or decay in the service.

8th.—I have been in this service as a public officer upwards of and during eleven years.

It is scarcely necessary for us to enlarge on this matter. We have already and oftentimes expressed our views upon the impropriety and injustice of heaping one duty after another upon the devoted shoulders of County Judges: broad indeed must they be to