

found who would gladly take offices of trust and responsibility under government, even were the salary lower than it is, and they would take the offices though their mental abilities, professional acquirements, or habits of business would prevent them competing, with any fair degree of success, with other persons in the profession or occupation to which they belong. But such men could bring neither fitness, efficiency, nor dignity to the offices they would seek to fill, while their want of professional or other qualifications or skill would always be an element of weakness and instability to the public service, and might eventually be disastrous to the appointing executive.

These observations are applicable to all branches of the public service where responsibility and ability are required in the execution of public offices and trusts. But to no class of public functionaries do these observations apply with greater force than to our judiciary. Upon their wisdom and learning and trained abilities depend the true interpretation of the laws; upon their integrity and firmness rest the impartiality and certainty of justice; and upon their professional industry and business habits is mainly based the rapid and economical administration of the judicial powers of the Courts. They pass judgment upon the validity or invalidity of the legislative Acts of our Parliament and Legislatures; they decide questions affecting the lives, the personal liberty, and the rights of property, of us all. Their judicial offices, if firmly held and wisely administered, will become the inner citadel of a well-governed community. And that community must be pitied which cannot look with the fullest trust and confidence to its Judges as the faithful and fearless administrators of its justice.

To efficiently discharge the judicial functions and responsibilities we have indicated, requires men to fill our judicial bench whose professional learning and research will make them experts in their knowledge of the law, and whose industry and despatch will not allow their administration of justice to illustrate, by unnecessary or vexatious delays, the maxim that "delayed justice is positive injustice."*

The men we now have on our judicial bench may be fairly said to combine—some in a greater and others in a lesser degree—the qualifications we have indicated, and are fairly and justly entitled to be more liberally and adequately remunerated for their judicial services to the public than they are at present.

It is unfortunately true, as stated in a judgment printed on p. 25 of this volume of *THE LAW JOURNAL*, that the judiciary which decides most important and weighty questions under our laws receives less than one-half of the compensation paid to some of the solicitors, and to many of the managers, of our commercial corporations.

In France the judicial salaries are not large, but there the number of lawyers is limited by law, and a lawyer having accumulated a reasonable competence from his professional practice will accept the crowning honour of a seat on the judicial

*An old law book says that the King in the judgment of the law is supposed to be present in all his courts when proclamation is made for dispensing justice by the Judges: "Wherefore all men, for all kinds of injuries, may have justice and right—freely without sale, fully without denial and speedily without delay."