

The Legal News.

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A correspondent of the *Gazette*, constituting himself the advocate of the County Court judges of Ontario, claims for them increased remuneration. We have no objection to this; but the argument put forward in support of it is quite incorrect. The writer says: "The discrepancy as to salaries between the two classes of judges is manifestly glaring. County Court judges in their several territorial jurisdictions discharge functions substantially similar to, and quite as important as, those relegated to the judges of the Superior Court in the Province of Quebec, and the minimum annual salary payable to a judge of the latter Court, under the present law, is \$3,500, while the maximum to a County Court judge is only \$2,400. The unfairness of this must be self-evident and should, I confidently contend, induce Parliament to include in the contemplated revision the judges of its inferior tribunals." It is totally incorrect to put the County Court judges of Ontario on the same footing as the Superior Court judges of Quebec. The latter have the same jurisdiction as the judges of the High Court of Justice in Ontario, and most of them act also as judges of appeal while sitting in Review at Montreal and Quebec. Others hold criminal terms of the Court of Queen's Bench. With reference to the alleged discrepancy of salaries, the difference is far more marked in England, where the salary of a superior judge is about four times that of a county judge. It must also be remembered that this distinction existed when the County Court judges accepted office, and was perfectly well known to them.

With reference to the petition of the General Council of the Quebec Bar, which it characterizes as a "unique production," the *Canada Law Journal* observes: "No one in Ontario has yet dared to advocate any higher examination in lieu of the 'primary'

of the Law Society, than *matriculation* in arts. The day seems to be yet distant when a *degree* in arts, or an equivalent for it, will be demanded. We wish it was much nearer than it is. But we think the time will never come when a degree in arts from one of our universities will be rejected as insufficient evidence of knowledge and culture to qualify the applicant for beginning the study of the law. Are the people of Ontario and its professional men inferior in education to those of the sister Province? We certainly think not." Our contemporary can only account for the effusion of the General Council on one of three suppositions; (1) "the colleges and universities of Quebec must give an utterly superficial and useless training;" (2) "the literary and scientific acquirements demanded of beginners in the study of law must be ridiculously high, higher than in any civilized country in the world;" or (3) "the General Council of the Bar in Quebec is an assembly of egotists unduly elated and inflated with the contemplation of their own importance." With reference to the first of these suppositions we would observe that it was abundantly shown before the committee of the Legislature, that the standard for the B. A. degree at McGill University is fully as high as at Oxford or Cambridge. Moreover, many of the gentlemen coming forward for admission to study have not only taken the degree, but have passed with honors.

The Morrison case this week has yielded its strange incident, in an interview between the outlaw, whom detective and policemen have vainly attempted to discover or arrest for a year past, and Mr. Dugas, Police Magistrate of Montreal, who, in his magisterial capacity, accompanied the expedition against Morrison. This interview, for which we are unable at present to recall any precedent, took place in a lonely building at night-fall. It was brought about by Morrison's friends, and Mr. Dugas doubtless acted from the best motives, to avoid bloodshed, to relieve the friends of Morrison from their embarrassing clansman, and to bring the expedition to a termination. But, as might have been anticipated, Morrison's demands were such as