

judges retire. I am sure that many of them get a great deal more than they ever earned as solicitors or barristers.

Mr. PROULX: I expressed my opinion with regard to this matter the other day when the Estimates of the Department of Justice were under consideration, and I have not since changed my mind. I am opposed to the whole resolution. I believe that in these times of stress, when we have to tax even the necessities of life in order to obtain the necessary revenue, we should not make such increases. The judges should wait a few years until the financial condition of the country show some improvement. They are getting very good salaries now, considering the allowances that they receive upon retirement. They are better paid than civil servants in the higher offices whose work is very important and who really work much harder than some of these judges. These civil servants do not get the generous allowances that the judges get, though the civil servants contribute to the superannuation fund while the judges do not. I concur in the suggestion made by my hon. friend (Mr. Lanctot) that if the judges die before they receive any retiring allowance the amount paid into the fund to which they should contribute could be paid to their families. I cited one case where we had been paying a pension to a judge since 1888 who had never paid a cent to the retirement fund. I repeat that there is a certain class of civil servants who are much more deserving of an increase than the judges are. But it is always the case, Mr. Chairman, that we give to those who do not need and withhold from those who need. There is one class of people who are public servants if they are not civil servants, and who render a great service to this country; I refer to the men who carry the mail throughout the country. The rural mail carriers have been receiving a starving allowance. Certainly they are not sufficiently remunerated.

Mr. ARCHAMBAULT: The judges should carry the mail.

Mr. PROULX: Well, my hon. friend may be derisive, but I tell him that these public servants are very deserving; certainly they are more deserving of consideration than judges who are already receiving salaries of \$7,000 and \$8,000, who receive a very generous retiring allowance, and who do not pay a cent to the superannuation fund as the civil servants do. It is my opinion that the people of this country are not getting a square deal. The time will come

when there will be in Canada a people's party who will give a square deal to all the people, and then there will be no privileged classes. Now you are going to make all the judges a privileged class. My hon. friend (Mr. Crothers) has mentioned the case of the County Court judges of Ontario. I am of the opinion that there are twice as many County Court judges in Ontario as are needed. In my own district we have two County Court judges while there is not enough work to employ one judge half the time, and I am sure that the same applies to many other districts in the province. These judges get \$4,000 and \$5,000; the senior judge gets \$1,000 from the province, and he gets fees as well, which amount to \$500. Legislation was passed in 1919 increasing the number of County Court judges in Ontario, as my hon. friend (Mr. Crothers) has said it will take at least fifteen years to eliminate the number that is not required. I submit that the Government could have waited a few years before making these increases. The plea of the high cost of living is always advanced in favour of increases; but we are not sure that the high cost of living will always prevail as it does to-day. In my opinion we may have very hard times in a few years and the cost of living may topple down. Once these salaries are increased it is practically impossible to reduce them. It is like the indemnities to the members of the House; once they are increased they can never be decreased.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. PROULX: If the high cost of living is the reason for the increase I would have preferred to see the judges get a bonus. We do not know whether the high cost of living will exist next year or two years hence.

Mr. BUREAU: It will be higher.

Mr. PROULX: We do not know. I think that in a few years the inflation that we have to-day will not exist and that prices will be much lower than they are now. We have to tax the people on necessities—in fact, upon everything. Water is about the only thing that is left untaxed now-a-days, and soon, if increases of all kinds are going to continue, we will have to tax water. The people will get tired of this sort of thing and there will arise a People's party, of which the United Farmers' and Labour are already the nucleus. I shall not regret it when a People's party does arise in this country. I think the two old parties have