

---

CORRESPONDENCE.

---

## PROBATE LAW IN NOVA SCOTIA.

*To the Editor of the Canada Law Journal.*

SIR,—In reading up arrears of the LAW JOURNAL, I find a letter in No. 5 (March 1), of the present year, under the above heading. There seems to be an undercurrent of anxiety in the letter which is very difficult to account for, as the writer is evidently a person out of the current of modern affairs, and out of touch with legal business.

He speaks of the Judges of Probate in Nova Scotia, one in each county, as being "paid by fees aggregating from \$400 to \$800 each." The fact is that there are twenty Judges of Probate in the eighteen counties of Nova Scotia, and that their fees ranged, in the year 1896, from \$20.18 (in Victoria county) to \$1,042 (in Halifax county). Of the twenty judges, fourteen received less than \$400 during the year, three received between \$400 and \$500, two received between \$500 and \$600, and one received over \$1,000. The figures vary slightly from year to year. In the county in which this is written, the Judge's fees average over \$500 a year, and the contentious business occupies on an average ten half days in a year. In the other two counties, constituting with this a County Court district, the combined fees of the Judges of Probate amount to a trifle over \$300, and the contested business is about half what it is in this county.

The actual working days of our County Court Judge, without the Probate jurisdiction, average rather less than sixty in the year, as nearly as the members of the legal profession can calculate. Whatever your correspondent "Jus." may think, it seems to me that the County Court Judges should welcome the addition of a little Probate business to their present light work. Their salaries are larger than their previous professional incomes, as a rule, and they should not be allowed to rust in idleness.

JUSTITIA.