

The Legal News.

Vol. I. APRIL 27, 1878. No. 17.

JUDICIAL SALARIES.

The Judges of Canada are as ill-paid a class of officials as it is possible to find anywhere, when the nature of the duties imposed upon them is taken into consideration. In the Province of Quebec it would be a great boon to the community if we could readjust the judicial machinery so as to dispense with some of the Judges, and give those actually required a better remuneration. It is not uncommon to hear a lament over the lack of great men on the bench, but it may fairly be asked whether one of the first preliminaries to securing talent—an adequate remuneration—has been attended to. Thus far, with the exception of the newly constituted Supreme Court, the salaries paid to the Judges of the superior tribunals are no larger than pertain to many simply clerical positions in England. The list of officers quoted below shows that in England not only are subordinate officials enjoying ample salaries, but the Judges are not unmindful of the welfare of their relatives. The list is as follows, the amounts being in pounds sterling: Secretary of Presentations, the Hon. E. P. Thesiger, £400; Secretary of Commissions, Mr. W. M. Cairns, £300; Secretary of Causes, Mr. J. Romilly, £1,000; Clerk of Records and Writs, the Hon. E. Romilly, £1,200; Registrar in Lunacy, Mr. C. N. Wilde, £1,000; Queen's Coroner and Attorney, Mr. Fred. Cockburn, £1,200; Master at the Crown Office, Mr. J. R. Mellor, £1,200; Associate, Mr. T. W. Erle, £1,000; Associate Exchequer Division, Mr. H. Pollock, £1,000; Master, Sir F. Pollock, £1,500; ditto, Mr. G. F. Pollock, £1,500; Queen's Remembrancer, Sir F. Pollock, £2,000; Secretary to Sir J. Hannen, Mr. J. C. Hannen, £300; Secretary to Sir R. Phillimore, Mr. Walter Phillimore, £300; Registrar in Bankruptcy, Mr. J. B. Brougham, £1,300; Clerk of Assize for Home Circuit, the Hon. R. Denman, £953; Associate, Mr. R. Denman, Jr.; Clerk of Assize, Midland Circuit, Mr. Arthur Drake Coleridge (salary not mentioned); Clerk of Assize, Oxford Circuit, Mr. E. Archer Wilde,

£1,000; and Clerk of Assize, Western Circuit, Mr. W. C. Bovill, £1,000.

DISPOSAL OF ARREARS.

In a communication to the *Times*, "A Solicitor" gives some information respecting the efforts which have been made at various times in England, in recent years, to clear off judicial arrears by the appointment of additional Judges. The writer takes occasion, from the facts stated, to deprecate additional judicial appointments without serious consideration. In the case of the Judicial Committee, however, there can be little doubt that the salaried appointments were urgently demanded by the exigencies of the case. In the year 1871, he says, a considerable number of cases were waiting for hearing before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. To remedy this an Act of Parliament was passed, under the provisions of which four permanent Judges were appointed, with salaries of £5,000 each. These Judges, without any extraordinary exertions (for they only sat five days a week for about five hours each day), cleared off all arrears, and, after an adjournment of upwards of three months, the Court recommenced its sittings in the autumn with a list of seven cases—viz., four Colonial Appeals, two Indian appeals, and an application for the prolongation of two patents. The writer estimated that this business would occupy about seven days, and thought it more than probable that at the expiration of about that time the learned Judges would have nothing to do.

In the year 1876, in consequence of complaints as to an arrear of appeals in the House of Lords, two Law Lords were appointed, each with a salary of £5,000 per annum, and the House was empowered to sit for the purpose of hearing appeals at any period of the year. The House sat for a few days in November, 1876, and then adjourned until the Session of Parliament in February, 1877, when its ordinary sittings were resumed. The arrears were thus, without difficulty, disposed of, and the House resumed its sittings in the fall with a list of 14 cases. Although this list would doubtless be added to before August next, the writer considered it certain that a great part of the time of the recently appointed Judges would be unoccupied.