

POSITION OF A JUDGE SHOULD BE ATTRACTIVE BECAUSE OF THE HIGH HONOR IT BRINGS

(Montreal Star)

The Prime Minister every now and then reveals to the country how profoundly and how courageously he has been thinking of public questions quite apart from the party game. His wholly spontaneous remarks on the judiciary yesterday, in the course of a debate on the application of a special income tax of ten per cent on the members of that body, is a case in point. A man who was no more than a party leader would not have ventured to make such a speech. But Mr. Bennett never forgets that he is a public man who owes a duty to the whole Canadian people.

A Blunt Statement

His blunt statement that the best legal minds do not always find their way to the Bench is based upon common knowledge. It has often been spoke of before, but usually by men who were not responsible for the selection of judges. And it has frequently been said—as Mr. Bennett does—that the key reason is that the big lawyers earn so much more with their fat fees that they simply cannot afford to take a judgeship at the present judicial salaries.

Certainly, judicial salaries are too low. They have reason why we all hailed as wise and fair the decision of the Government last spring to exempt judges from the proposed ten per cent cut. But we all knew then—as we know better now—that the back-benchers in Parliament resented deeply the fact that judges were to be exempted while they were to be mulcted. At a recent session, they were credited with having killed a perfectly fair proposal to increase judicial salaries; and the reason alleged was that they would not consent to better pay for judges until they got better pay for Parliamentarians.

Apparently, the back-benchers have won out. The ten per cent reduction is to be applied to judges in the form of an income tax. One does not need to go farther than the frequently expressed opinion of the Prime Minister in Parliament to feel quite free to infer that neither the Prime Minister nor some at least of his colleagues agreed with this practical reduction of the judges' pay at a time when most think their pay too low.

Cannot Be Done

On the other hand, will it ever be possible to pay judges enough money to attract the more expensive counsel

if a position on the Bench is to be regarded from a purely cash point of view? Lawyers are credited with earning fifty thousand—and more—a year. Can we pay even our most highly-priced judges such salaries? Obviously, we cannot. How, then, are we to get the best legal minds on the Bench? Precisely in the same manner as we have in many cases in the past—by establishing a public sentiment which attaches to the position of judge so great an aura of honour that men, with money enough to live as they like, prefer the distinction of the high office to piling up additional dollars that they cannot spend.

The Money End

It is a great mistake to imagine that all men under all circumstances judge a job by the money it brings. The higher service in most civilized countries are filled with men of means who serve for much less money than they could get elsewhere "for the honour of the position." Men who are without means often make this choice when the salary is enough to enable them to live decently. After all, the consideration of one's fellows is a greater reward to the majority of the better minds in the community than the low envy that is attracted by mere wealth; and it is the better minds in the legal profession about which we are talking.

If the great positions in this country are not to be regarded as attractive because of the honour they bring—as they are in the Mother Country—then we are in a bad way. If judges are thinking of nothing but their salaries, then we will have a dangerously sordid and mercenary judiciary. They must and should have salary enough to live in comfort and decent dignity. That at least must be assured any man in so representative a position. But if we are to encourage out judges to estimate the standing of their office by the amount of money it pays—and by nothing else—we will find that it is not so very long or impossible a step from a judge who works for a pay envelop to a judge who "works" his office for such rewards as those which have recently been revealed in the Tammany exposures of New York City.

Our judges in Canada have had a splendid record. It would be difficult to recall a case in which the honour of our Bench has been impeached.

AMERICAN DIAMOND TRADE HAS CENTRAL POINT AT NASSAU

(New York Sun)

John street, around Nassau, is the heart of the American diamond trade. The curb is infested with diamond brokers. At noonday you can't move about there without brushing against 25,000 of 'em (diamonds, not brokers).

With the unerring accuracy which long experience has taught, the reporter picked out the most respectable looking man handy and demanded to know if he were a diamond broker. The man admitted that he was. He turned out to be E. Barzilay. To start things the reporter asked about the state of the Diamond trade.

"Business is ro—I mean things are picking up," said Mr. Barzilay. "You want to buy a diamond?" he added hopefully. The reporter introduced himself. The diamond broker looked depressed. Finally he said: "You shouldn't talk to me; come around to the club and get a proper interview." The diamond broker escorted the reporter to 80 Nassau, gave him a card which, he said, would admit him to the club on the fourth floor and went back to John street. On the fourth floor the newspaper man found a heavily barred gate with a peephole and a guard.

"Are you a member?" said the guard. "No; a visitor," was the reply. "Can't come in," answered the gateman.

Finally a member of the club came to the door and the reporter, presenting Mr. Barzilay's card, introduced himself as a newspaper man. The member shook his head doubtfully.

"The last one who was in here," he observed, "nearly ruined us."

Finally the barred gate swung open and the reporter was introduced to some of the 300 members who were doing business around a large bright room—their "trading floor"—which was also littered with little tables at which members were indulging in light lunches, cafeteria style. It was the first organized exchange the reporter ever had seen where members had their lunch served them at tables on the trading floor. A member hastily observed that the tea, coffee and sandwiches were not free.

The reason for the appearance of the place was promptly explained by an affable member of the Diamond Club, Inc., as the organization, formed about a years ago is known.

"We have to be careful whom we brush against," he declared, "since everybody here has at this moment a wallet full of diamonds, sometimes as much as \$25,000 worth, depending upon the size of his business."

The member called attention to the four walls, which were lined with electric pushbuttons, spaced a few feet apart. In the event of a hold-up a member touches the nearest button, which gives police Headquarters an alarm and starts a great siren sounding on Nassau street.

The reporter was informed that diamonds had sunk as low in price as they could go; that he could buy a good stone now for \$250 to \$350. A years ago they were \$350 to \$450 and in the boom times they cost more than \$500. The trade is optimistic; royal diamonds mostly have stopped coming on the market; the remaining supply is owned by the Soviet Government, which is not selling; smuggled gems are now rare because of the reduction in the United States duty from 20 to 10 per cent decreasing the smuggling incentive; the major source of supply, the great DeBeers mines, are closing down, and the present cost of a

Moreover, many of our best legal minds are on the Bench—where they ought to be. A great advocate would not always make a great judge. The comparison between counsel and judge on a cash basis is not always fair or even relevant. Certainly, the judges should be paid enough to maintain their dignity. But a part of their "pay" must always be the honour and the high esteem of their fellows. Mr. Bennett has got the right idea. The Bench should not be a part of the party patronage "fund" or a refuge for mediocre minds. Mr. Bennett, as a distinguished lawyer, will be jealous on both these counts, and his appointments to the Bench can be awaited with confidence.

good diamond is below production cost.

"When stocks go up diamonds will too," observed a member cheerfully, "but if stocks go down diamonds can't go any lower."

The reporter asked about the club which, like the Curb Exchange, has taken members in out of the rain and given them a roof under which to trade, though trading on the John street curbs still continues.

"We have no rules; no constitution," interposed a member, "but we have a code of etiquette. If we need rules we'll have 'em; if we need a constitution we'll have that, too."

The idea of luncheon on the trading floor reproduces a custom of the European diamond brokers, and since many of the 300 members are foreign or of foreign origin the custom makes them feel more at home. Besides, they can do business while they eat. The Diamond Club has done wonders, all brokers agree, for the local diamond trade.

The reporter had an extraordinary itch, when taking his departure, to see \$25,000 in diamonds in one pile, but was afraid to make known his desire. The electric buttons were too numerous and handy. Some members might get nervous.

CANADIANS PRESENTED TO HIS MAJESTY

London, May 13—Seven Canadian women were presented to the King and Queen last night amid the regal splendor which is hidden from the world by the walls of Buckingham Palace. Hundreds of persons—among whom were many debutantes—held invitations to Their Majesties' second court of the season, the peak of London's social life.

Canadians Presented

The Canadians were curtsied to Their Majesties, standing beneath a golden canopy in the state ballroom, were: Miss Patricia Blackader, Montreal; Mrs. Henry Boak, Ottawa; Mrs. Robert Y. Eaton, Toronto, the Misses Margaret and Nora Eaton, Toronto; Miss Kathleen Kingstone, St. Catharines, Ont., and Miss Frances Vanier, Montreal. They were introduced by Mrs. G. Howard Ferguson, wife of the Canadian High Commissioner to Great Britain.

Mrs. Ferguson was resplendent in a gown of pale oyster satin, with a train of oyster chiffon, embroidered with pearls and silver thread. Miss Blackader wore an empire gown of pink romaine, worked with pearl and silver flowers, and falling into a short train. Mrs. Boak was in a princess gown of white satin and carried a green feather fan. Mrs. Eaton's gown was a regal creation of gold and yellow lame, with court train and belt of brilliants and lame. She carried a white ostrich fan. Her daughters, Miss Margaret, and Miss Nora appeared respectively in silver lame with train to match and white crinkled satin, belted in brilliants.

A bouquet of orchids stood out against Miss Kingston's gown of pink Satin, flared at the hem, with a close fitting waist and a simple train. Sea green crepe romaine was chosen by Miss Vanier. She carried a plume fan of same shade and her train was worked in silver sequins.

ISOLATED VILLAGE ASKS BUS SERVICE

Crowhurst, Surrey, England, May 19—Although this village, the smallest in Surrey is only 30 miles from London, it is three miles from a railroad station; five miles from a movie house; has no bus service; has no shops; and has no gas or electricity. But the villagers have tired of their seclusion and the annual parish meeting has asked an omnibus company to provide a service.

A lot of the boys who used to be known as Napoleons of finance are now looking wistfully back to the good old days before Waterloo.

Rich In Flavour—Always "SALADA" TEA "Fresh from the Gardens"

One more point has been added to A New England meeting-house will Prof. Pitkin's thesis that men over put away its collection plate until bet- 50 are no good on earth. Cannibals ter times. It is understood that in Central Agric hold that persons of when last passed someone lifted the that age are too tough for table use. decoy.

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