

Superior Court might, as vacancies occur, be appointed to reside where they could most conveniently be located for the general interests of the Province.

The Province is divided into twenty Judicial Districts, of which ten are in the Quebec division and ten in the Montreal division. The Superior Court has one Chief Justice. I would propose an additional Chief Justice for the Montreal division. Ontario has four Chief Justices, counting the Chancellor as one. Quebec would be better with three than with two. As to the eighteen country Districts, as vacancies occur among the Judges, District Judges should be appointed with the same powers. Besides the sitting of the Courts held by the District Judges, there might be terms of the Superior Court to be held three times in the year, and I would give the plaintiff the option of inscribing his case for hearing on the merits before the District Judge, or before three Judges of the Superior Court in term. If the judgment be rendered by the District Judge, then the party aggrieved to have the right of inscribing in review as at present or in his own District at his option.

I append a scheme of the practicable operation of this plan, which I am confident would, under the supervision of a Chief Justice, who should be responsible for its working, be an immense improvement upon the present system, and acceptable alike to the Judges, the Bar, and suitors.

For the cities of Montreal and Quebec, I would propose District Judges in the proportion of three for Montreal and two for Quebec: these Judges should relieve the Judges of the Superior Court from the duty of sitting in Insolvency, the Circuit Court and at Enquêtes.

The jurisdiction of the Circuit Court might be raised to \$500, from \$200. Three of the Superior Judges could always be employed as required on Circuit, and the Bars of the country and city would be much better served than they can now be, by the present judicial strength. My plan has further this advantage, that it will not add to the burdens of the country when fairly in operation. If it were possible to make an immediate change the expense would be \$124,500, in place of \$126,000.

In conclusion I beg humbly to make the following observations:—

1. If the present system be continued, one

additional Judge, in the Superior Court, Montreal, would not give the relief required. Two would be needed.

2. If the opinions of the Judges themselves were taken, I believe that they would not suggest an addition of Superior Court Judges.

3. If the system were reformed in the direction indicated, a Superior Court Judge would always be available to assist the Judges of the Queen's Bench (criminal side), Montreal and Quebec.

4. The creation of a sixth Judge in the Queen's Bench is unnecessary.

5. It is indispensable for the prosperity of the Superior Court that the Judges should have continual opportunities for association and conference. Such opportunities would be given by forcing them to sit in turn at the centres.

6. Economy being imperatively demanded by the Dominion Legislature, the addition of two Superior Court Judges to the number resident in the cities of Montreal and Quebec, seventeen in all, would be a significant contrast to the number required in Ontario, being thirteen in all.

7. The exigencies of the case demand the appointment of a Commission, which should form a system suitable to the wants of the Province. A Bill might be framed upon its suggestions, and submitted to the criticism of Judges, Bar and public, for a year or two. Then only would the people be prepared for a change.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

F. W. TORRANCE.

To the Attorney General

for the Province of Quebec.

APPENDIX A.

Present System.—Superior Court.

1 Chief Justice.....	\$ 6,000
9 Puisne Justices.....	45,000
14 do do.....	56,000
2 do do.....	7,000
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3 additional Judges for vacant Districts, say	\$114,000
	12,000
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Vacant Districts are Terrebonne, Montmagny, Saguenay.	\$126,000