

*DISTRIBUTION OF JUDICIAL WORK IN  
THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.*

The following tables have been compiled by Mr. Justice McCord from the judicial statistical returns published every year as required by law in the Quebec Official Gazette, and are intended to show the number of cases of all kinds decided by the Judges of the Superior Court. They are the statistics referred to by Mr. Justice Ramsay in his letter to the Attorney-General.

Table 1, which comprises the five years from 1875 to 1879, was prepared in 1880. Table 2, comprising the years 1880 and 1881, has been prepared quite recently, and brings these statistics as nearly as possible down to date.

Leaving out Iberville in both tables (there being no Iberville returns for Table 2), it will be found that the latter table shows a decrease of nearly 9 per cent. in the amount of judicial work. The decrease in Montreal is about 13 per cent., but Quebec shows an increase of about 6 per cent.

For the purposes of Table 2, and of its comparison with Table 1, it has been assumed, as the nearest approximation possible in the absence of returns, that the Iberville statistics would be the same as in Table 1, less the 9 per cent. decrease just mentioned.

A variety of conclusions, says the author, may be drawn from these tables, but the following are perhaps the most salient, and they differ so slightly for each table that they show the result not only of a five or of a two years, but also of a seven years, average.

TABLE 1.

1. The total number of cases decided being 9699, the equal share of each of the 26 judges would be 373.
2. Each Montreal judge has more than double his proportionate share of the total work of the province.
3. Fifteen judges out of the twenty-six do (each in his own district) less than their proportionate share of work. Of these, fourteen decide less than 300 cases, eight decide less than 200, and two have almost literally no cases to decide.
4. Fourteen judges, in their own districts, have less to do than would be the proportionate share of seven.
5. The six Montreal judges have more to do than the sixteen judges outside of Quebec and Montreal.
6. The six Montreal judges have (within 331 cases) one half of the work of the whole province.
7. Ten judges out of the twenty-six, (those of Montreal and Quebec), have, within 176 cases, two-thirds of the work of the whole province, while the other sixteen have only 176 cases more than the remaining one-third.
8. There are eight judges, out of the 26, who, all together, in their own districts, have only one-ninth of the work of the whole province,

and the work of these eight, compared with that of the six in Montreal, stands in the proportion of 1 to 4.

9. In the three counties of Beauce, Terrebonne and Chicoutimi, in which *no* judge is required to reside, there is twenty times more work to do than in the two counties of Gaspé and Bonaventure where *two* judges are required to reside.

10. The two judges of Gaspé and Bonaventure, have together, in their own districts, about one-twentieth of the amount of work to do that would be the proportionate share of one judge.

11. The three judges of Rimouski, Bonaventure and Gaspé, together, have not one half of the work to do, in their own districts, that would be the proportionate share of one judge.

TABLE 2.

1. The total number of cases decided being 8828, the equal share of each of the 26 judges would be 340.
2. Each Montreal judge has, (less a very small fraction) double his proportionate share of the total work of the province.
3. Fourteen judges out of the twenty-six do (each in his own district) less than their proportionate share of work. Of these, thirteen decide less than 300 cases, nine decide less than 200, and two have almost literally no cases to decide.
4. Fourteen judges in their own districts have less to do than would be the proportionate share of seven.
5. The six Montreal judges have over two shares more to do than the sixteen judges outside of Quebec and Montreal.
6. The six Montreal judges have (within 502 cases) one half of the work of the whole province.
7. Ten judges out of the twenty-six, (those of Montreal and Quebec), have, within 98 cases, two-thirds of the work of the whole province, while the other sixteen have only 98 cases more than the remaining one-third.
8. There are eight judges, out of the twenty-six, who, all together, in their own districts, have not one tenth of the work of the whole province, and the work of these eight, compared with that of the six in Montreal, stands in the proportion of 1 to 4½.
9. In the three counties of Beauce, Terrebonne and Chicoutimi, in which *no* judge is required to reside, there is very nearly ten times more work to do than in the two counties of Gaspé and Bonaventure where *two* judges are required to reside.
10. The two judges of Gaspé and Bonaventure, have together, in their own districts, about one eighth of the amount of work to do that would be the proportionate work of one judge.
11. The three judges of Rimouski, Bonaventure and Gaspé, together, have not one half of the work to do, in their own districts, that would be the proportionate share of one judge.