

Council was just saying that as the Province of Ontario spends \$200,000, the Province of Quebec may well spend \$150,000. I do not think that is a suitable way of reasoning. It is as if man and wife, common as to property, should each spend their share; the consequence would be that the whole of their property would soon disappear. If one acts on that principle, it is certain that it will not take long to exhaust the public Treasury. I do not think that such an argument will meet with the approval either of the House or of the country. The system of judicial decentralization, which it was sought to bring about in 1857, might, up to certain point, have had its *raison d'être*. There were, certainly, at that time a few abuses, but matters were pushed too far; more districts were created than were necessary; the population has not increased in the same ratio as the districts created, and the consequence is that, from a judicial point of view, the districts have not done anything. I think, therefore, that it is necessary to remodel the districts, to enlarge those which are easy of access by rail, and to give those which are deprived of facilities of communication, such as the Magdalen Islands and Labrador, a special jurisdiction. I do not think if we seek to bury educated and able Judges in the country, at a salary of \$3,200 per annum, that competent men will accept the position. Another abuse to which I would draw the attention of this House—and in doing so my words may possibly reach the members of the Quebec Government—is, that the judicial system should be immediately so amended as to ensure the prompt distribution of moneys by justice. In the Province of Quebec, there is the Registrar's certificate created, it would seem, purposely to prevent people from being paid; it is one of the greatest abuses that have come to my knowledge, in the system that I am complaining about to-day. It is not astonishing that this abuse should exist, for the system in vogue is in direct violation of the elementary principles of law; for the Registrar's certificate represents the rights of those who will not look after their own interests. As matters exist to-day, one cannot obtain this distribution through the tribunals, until one has done away with claims that have no real existence, or which delay those persons interested in the case.

Mr. LANDRY. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt but that one of the greatest faults committed by the Liberal party was the desperate struggle they made for the abolition of dual representation. If dual representation existed to-day, the Province of Quebec would greatly profit thereby, and the voice, whose melodious notes we have heard this evening, would not be obliged to invoke the echoes, for it would itself resound powerful and persuasive in the legislative halls of the Province of Quebec. If here, in Ottawa, the hon. member for L'Islet cannot, in spite of the trouble he gives himself, palm himself off as the leader of his party, at least, in the city of Quebec, he would shine. Who has not read the words of the poet:

"Tel brille au second rang qui s'éclipse au premier."

After having heard the hon. member for L'Islet, one is at a loss to know whether the complaint he has just made against the administration of justice in the Province of Quebec is of recent date or not. No, Sir, he has taken us two hundred years back, probably to the days when his ancestors came to the country, when the Province of Quebec was first open to colonization. In those days, it would seem, the administration of justice gave rise to the inconveniences which the hon. member has just mentioned. But if these inconveniences are so numerous, why did not the party to which the hon. gentleman belongs, and which was some time in power in Quebec and here in Ottawa—why did not this party remedy the evil? No, Sir; in those days, instead of diminishing the number of

Judges, more were appointed. In those days the hon. member for L'Islet was in the House, and when his party appointed Judges in different districts—at Quebec and at Arthabaska—he clapped his hands. And by his position in this House, and by the support that he gave the Government of the day, he approved unreservedly what he now condemns. The hon. member hopes that echo will carry his voice into the Province of Quebec. But it will only be the echo of an echo, for he is only himself the echo of the remarks made by the leader of the Opposition; and willingly he repeats, after his leader, that our country Judges should naturally grow rusty by their contact with the population among which they live. And why? "Because," says he, "there are no libraries in the rural districts." Oh! what a fine discovery! Sir, without wishing to at all play upon words, I would say that if these gentlemen grow rusty when they go to live in the country, it is probably because they are iron-shod with regard to law, (*bien ferres sur le droit*), for rust has no hold except on iron. That is the only way to answer the artless pretensions of the hon. member for L'Islet, who surely never found in a library the weak reasoning he brings forward in support of his thesis. And what does he next say? After this very grave charge brought against our country Judges, the hon. member attacks our whole judicial system. For the requirements of the case, he raises with great pain a special structure which he calls "jurisdiction;" then he comes and leads us to the entrance of this new building, and invites us to visit this enchanted palace which he drags along after him. He begins by the first flat: there we find the Commissioners Courts, from there he goes up to the Justices of the Peace, from there he ascends to the District Magistrates, to the Circuit Court, to the Supreme Court, and from story to story, he takes us up to the twenty-third story which is the crowning part of his structure, and this story, which is a splendid cupola, he calls the Privy Council, I think, but he means the Supreme Court. Is he not wrong, Sir, to show us the Supreme Court on this occasion? When we heard this afternoon the hon. leader of the Opposition, figures in hand, tell us that in the Province of Quebec, in certain districts, there were not two law suits, and that for this reason these districts should be wiped out, in order to bring back the administration of justice to a more central point, then I naturally ask, what are we to do with the Supreme Court? The statistics that we have since its establishment, and the statistics that you asked for yourself, Mr. Speaker, when the Liberal party were in power, prove, beyond the possibility of a doubt, that this Court has no longer its *raison d'être*, at least if the reasoning of the hon. leader of the Opposition is worth anything, and if, as usual, we can draw the conclusion from the premises laid down. Now, Sir, I have only one word to add. I ask, and I ask with you, Sir, what remedy the hon. member wishes to apply to the existing evils? He has suggested none. Does he declare himself in favor of the motion now in your hands? Not at all. Only, he says that he will allow it to pass provided that reforms are introduced into the judicial system of the Province of Quebec. There is, however, one consolation for the hon. member and that is, he says that the Judgeships in the Province of Quebec are occupied by first-class men, and a moment after he says that first-class men cannot be found with the present salaries. Let the hon. member not try to deny an assertion that the whole House has heard, that with \$3,200 first-class men could not be found. At all events, Sir, I understand his fears and his tremblings; he deserves to be soon appointed. With these remarks, Sir, I hope that, in spite of what the hon. member for L'Islet has said, the motion now in your hands will meet with the approval of this House, and that the Province of Quebec will have, as she has a right to have, the new Judge she asks for.

Motion agreed to.