

trustee. Surely the investigation made by the superintendent of bankruptcy should be very largely confined to complaints against the officials whom he has licensed, so he can exercise his discretion as to whether the licences shall be continued or withdrawn. Any other course of inspection beyond a doubt is going to result in the building up of a very large and expensive staff at Ottawa under the superintendent of bankruptcy.

Mr. CARDIN: I think the fears of the hon. member for Regina are perfectly well justified, and he may rest assured that before long this is going to establish a very important bureau in Ottawa to deal with the Bankruptcy Act. He may also be assured of this, that the moment one creditor is dissatisfied with anything happening during the disposition of the assets of an insolvent debtor, he is going to make complaint at Ottawa and ask for a special investigation to be made by the superintendent. So the superintendent will be travelling all the time covering the whole of Canada, and to answer the requests coming every day to his department it will be necessary that he have an assistant, as well as accountants, stenographers and other officials. In the end it may very well be that in the event of loss to the creditors the government will be charged with responsibility because the supervising by the superintendent had not been efficient, and it will be urged that there is a moral responsibility on the government.

Now, may I be permitted to refer to the case I mentioned with regard to the fact that the province of Quebec is being considered as one district under this bill, and that a man residing in the county of Gaspé may be forced to come to Hull or to Bryson to answer the petition in bankruptcy. The case was decided in the court of appeal of Quebec and the decision was affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in 1927. I refer to the case of *Boilly v. McNulty*. The debtor was residing in Roberval, in the extreme east end of Quebec, and he was brought to Montreal. This is the decision of the supreme court:

Held, that the superior court sitting in bankruptcy at Montreal had jurisdiction. According to section 63, subsection 1 (d) of the Bankruptcy Act, the court having jurisdiction in bankruptcy matters in the province of Quebec is the superior court of the province, and according to section 64, subsection 5 of the act, each province of Canada shall constitute for the purpose of this act one bankruptcy district, so that the superior court, sitting in any provincial judicial district, has jurisdiction to hear a petition in bankruptcy served upon a debtor residing and doing business in any part of the province.

I think that is quite clear, and this interpretation absolutely confirms my contention. I think it time this situation was remedied and justice rendered to those living in the rural sections of Canada, more particularly in the province of Quebec. My hon. friend from Stanstead said that boards of trade, chambers of commerce and so on were in favour of these amendments. I have every respect for these organizations, but they are located in the big cities and it is only natural that they should look after their own interests. But they forget the interests of those living in the rural sections of the country. I do not blame these organizations for making these recommendations in order that these matters may be dealt with at their convenience. They are defending their own interests and protecting their own rights, but I think one of the duties of parliament is to look after the interests of all Canada and not to legislate only according to the will or the whim of these big organizations located in the large centres. The rural sections of Canada must be recognized and considered; they should not be deprived of their advantages and their rights.

It is not my intention to move any amendment, but I would ask the Minister of Justice and the government if they would not consider an amendment to provide that in the districts of Quebec, other than the cities of Montreal and Quebec, the clerk of the court should be appointed as trustee to administer the affairs of insolvent debtors. That would save a large amount of money to the creditors. This official of the court could deal with the matter much better than it could be dealt with by any other trustee who might be appointed. The clerk has legal knowledge as well as a knowledge of conditions in the district in which he lives, so he would be in a very good position to dispose of the assets of an insolvent debtor. This would ensure the application of the Bankruptcy Act in a very proper way. That man would be an official of the court; he would know how to deal with legal matters, and he would be dealing with them in his official capacity. This would not greatly increase his duties, because after all there is not very much to do when a trustee or liquidator wants to dispose of an insolvent business quickly; that can be done in a very short time. The delay in the past has been caused by the trustees themselves, who have had many matters accumulate in their offices, and who must adjust everything else in order to leave themselves free to look after one particular matter. So I think if the clerk of the court