

Montreal and the district judge at Quebec will replace the judges of the Sessions of the Peace and exercise the same functions of the judges of the Circuit Court exercised at Montreal and at Quebec, which functions are, by the bill, assigned to the district judges, as well as in the district of Terrebonne, and in one of the districts of the Quebec division, whose judge shall be transferred to the city of Quebec. The number of judges in Montreal will be considerable for some time; but it must not be imagined that it will take long for the law to come into force everywhere. Every one knows that, from ordinary causes, judges, like others, disappear pretty rapidly. Thus, the other day, a judge said to me: "I was appointed judge seven years ago, and already the majority of the judges are my juniors." As only twelve judges will remain, the law will come into force pretty soon. Now, while the ten judges of the Superior Court sit in Montreal they will not be obliged to go on circuit in many districts, and this will, in consequence of the increased number of judges, remove the congestion which now exists in the Enquête and Merits Court in Montreal, where considerable delay occurs at present.

*The Court of Queen's Bench.*

In virtue of the bill which I will introduce, the Court of Queen's Bench may sit with the assistance of some of the judges *ad hoc* or as assistant judges. As this court may sit in two different places, this will remove the congestion which exists in the Court of Queen's Bench, because if the Court of Queen's Bench were to sit at Montreal for two years it would barely be able to get rid of all the cases now inscribed before that court. Now, when in each district a vacancy occurs in the Bench of the Superior Court, such vacancy shall not be filled up, but the district shall at once come under the operation of the law which appoints district judges. Thus, let us take, for instance, the district of Montmagny. Let us suppose that the judge in the district of Montmagny, for one reason or another, ceases to exercise his functions there, either because he is removed by death or is promoted to a higher position. Immediately, under the law, the Federal Government will be obliged to appoint a district judge for Montmagny, and the Superior Court of Montmagny shall be served by one of the judges of the Superior Court residing in Quebec. Meanwhile, as soon as the proclamation is issued, the principle of the law comes into force everywhere throughout the province, so that the judges of the Superior Court now existing and exercising their functions in each district shall continue to exercise their functions as judges of the Superior Court for cases of \$400 and over, and the district judges shall have jurisdiction for all cases under \$400, except as regards the functions of district magistrates, which shall remain the same until district judges are appointed.

I would observe, in passing, that cases for over \$400 do not represent one-fifth of the work of the judges, while cases of \$400 and under represent four-fifths of the work. I give four-fifths of the work to the district judges, whose number is greater; on the other hand, for cases over \$400, which represent only one-fifth of the work, there are sixteen Superior