

encouragement culminating in the kind address which you have just presented.

You will perhaps allow me to say a few words regarding the administration of justice in this district. It will be generally admitted that to be effective it should be prompt. Of course this does not mean that there must always be a judge ready to try a case, for that is not always possible, but it does mean that it must be so kept up that cases may be heard within a reasonable time after they are inscribed.

You are all aware also that the business before our Superior Court has enormously increased owing no doubt to the great growth of the city and its wonderful expansion as a commercial, railway and shipping centre. I have not verified the fact, but it has been authoritatively stated that more than half of the legal business of the province is done here. Without going into detail on this point, I might refer for instance to the great amount of work thrown upon the Court of Review by being created a court of final resort in city expropriations and municipal cases, and by the change in the law granting an appeal direct from that Court to the Supreme Court of Canada, and to Her Majesty in Her Privy Council. In fact it is only necessary to glance over our legislation of late years to see that the intervention of the Court or of a judge is now required in a great many more cases than formerly. It has also to be remembered that in this province in ninety-nine civil cases out of a hundred, the judge has to decide the facts as well as the law.

Apart from this district there are ten others in what may be called the "Montreal Review Division," presided over by nine judges, one of whom is authorized to reside in Montreal. I believe that with the exception of the district of St. Francis, the judicial work of these districts does not nearly occupy the time of the resident judge, and in view of the great increase of it in Montreal it appears to me that the time has fully arrived for a re-adjustment of judicial labor so that it may be fairly and equally distributed.

While it is right and proper that justice, civil and criminal, should be administered in each district, I do not know of any paramount reason why a judge should be required to reside in any of these districts, with the exception of St. Francis and perhaps of Ottawa. In the former the work is too heavy for one judge, who has seven Circuit Courts to attend besides the one at