

Judges whom he had appointed, and instancing the affliction under which Judge Badgely had the misfortune to labour, he stated that some of the best decisions given by a most eminent Judge (Barton) had been delivered when he was totally blind. With reference to Mr. Justice Drummond, he would say nothing on the points on which charges had been brought against him in the press, except that he did not give implicit credit to all newspaper statements, nor believe that he had been guilty of the conduct imputed to him. Paying a complimentary tribute to some other occupants of the Bench, he turned to its composition in Montreal, and thought that in the matter of industry and ability, no honest lawyer could complain of Mr. Justice Mondelet. If there was upon the Bench any Judge desirous and capable of discharging his duties faithfully and impartially, it was Mr. Justice Berthelot. (Hear, hear.) Judge Monk was an ornament to his profession, and would be a credit to any judiciary whatever. He had recommended Judge Meredith, and also Taschereau, whom he had known as a most hard working man, the most valuable quality which a lawyer could possess. Everybody would admit the brilliant faculties and accomplishments of Mr. Justice Johnson who was equally master of both languages, and no one who had read the reports of the trials of the Fenian prisoners within his jurisdiction could deny the admirable and excellent manner in which he had discharged a most difficult duty. After complimenting some other gentlemen occupying seats on the Bench he referred in high terms to Judge Winter, and, stating that he had been responsible for the appointment of Judge Lafontaine, of Aylmer, challenged the honourable member for Hochelaga to say anything against his honour or efficiency, although he was aware that a petition for his removal had been presented by the honourable member for Ottawa, grounded on some complaint against his conduct when he was Prothonotary or Crown Lands agent—a petition that had never been prosecuted, and which the honourable member for Hochelaga would be the first to oppose. The last recommendation for which he was responsible was that of Mr. Justice Bosse, whose eminence in his profession was indisputable. He had now referred to every appointment he had made, and although acknowledging that he was usually actuated by political motives—that he liked to find an opposition arrayed against him and to fight it—(laughter)—had not been swayed by politi-

[Mr. Cartier (Montreal East).]

cal considerations in his judicial appointments. He had been traduced before the tribunal of the House and was glad of the occasion to reply. He did not care very greatly about vituperation which he could hear and answer. He rather liked it (much laughter), because when his reputation got abroad it helped to prevent such charges being believed again. (Renewed laughter.) He had been able to dispose of a great many of these thirteen cases of affliction from chronic or immoral ailments. (Great laughter.) He would be more generous than the honourable member for Hochelaga, and would not refer to the appointments of Judges Sicotte, Drummond or Loranger, regarding which nothing would induce him to say what he knew. (Laughter.) The true difficulty in remodelling the judiciary had been already most justly stated to be the want of any means of pensioning old or infirm judges, for which they had only 2,000 pounds at their disposal in Lower Canada, on which small fund there were already some charges existing. It was quite correct, as had been stated, that the business to be transacted in Montreal was equal to that of all the rest of the Province, and the absence or illness of any judge necessarily occasioned inconvenience. He went on to relate the circumstances under which Mr. Justice Smith had taken leave of absence without due authority on the ground of ill health, upon which subject there was some correspondence to be submitted. When at any time it was proposed to a judge to retire, he demanded a pension to the full amount of his salary, and the judge to whom the honourable member for Gaspé had referred, who was 85 years old, had ten years ago refused a pension of two-thirds, offered as an inducement to him to resign. The judges knew the law, and the Act guaranteeing their independence gave them a standing that created the difficulty. Four of them, he would not go so far as to say thirteen, ought to be pensioned. He repeated that he was pleased at the opportunity of going into the subject which had been offered, and of vindicating before the House the character of his appointments. (Applause.)

Mr. Wright characterized it as an instance of audacity in the Hon. Minister for Militia to rise and state that his Honour, Mr. Justice Lafontaine, did his duty satisfactorily when he had himself, as representative of the County of Ottawa, presented a petition against him, signed by the most respectable inhabitants of the district, composed of the