

this head will amount to \$50,000 per annum, at least, and will go on increasing. There is also another consideration, and that is that the present salary of the district magistrates is not sufficient. The salary of these magistrates who, after all, are called upon to exercise important judicial functions in criminal matters, is not sufficient. It is only \$1,200, and this has been so understood that for seven or eight years it has been necessary to indirectly increase the salary of the district magistrates by giving them travelling expenses of from ten to five dollars a day, which greatly increases the expense of the administration of justice. I do not say that it was wrong to do so. I believe, on the contrary, that it is impossible to get a competent man to perform judicial duties of such importance for the small salary of \$1,200 per annum. We will therefore be assuredly compelled to increase the salary of these magistrates if they are to continue to exist, or we will be obliged to replace them by other magistrates or other judges, and I think the plan I propose is the best. Now, if this expenditure is to be \$50,000 per annum, as it will soon be, I ask myself why the Province of Quebec should pay the expenditure in question. We complain so much of the expense we incur. We clamor so much for economy. We endeavor by every means to reduce our expenditure. Now, here is a favorable opportunity for reducing the expense of the administration of justice by \$50,000; because, as everyone knows, sections 96 and 100 of the British North America Act say that it is the Federal Parliament which appoints the judges and pays their salary. I therefore ask myself why, in view of that provision of the British North America Act, the Province of Quebec should be obliged to pay \$50,000 for the administration of criminal justice. Thus, those who are in favor of economy cannot but say that, in this respect at least, the bill is a good one.

Now we have to consider how the bill is to be put into effect. In 1857, when the great statesman whom everyone admires, Sir George Etienne Cartier, introduced his measure for the reorganization of the law courts, it was comparatively easy to put the reform into practice. At that time the question was to appoint new judges, and, as everyone is aware, candidates for judgeships were not wanting any more in 1857 than they are now. Consequently, it was rather easy to appoint new judges. At the present time the question is to reduce the number of Superior Court judges from 30 to 16. If we wish to put the law into execution we would have to decapitate 14 of those gentlemen. Now, it is quite sure that they will not submit to decapitation without making considerable resistance. It is for that reason that one of the provisions of the bill, section 112, says that the act shall come into force by proclamation of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. As soon as the proclamation is issued, this is what will happen: In the districts of Montreal, Quebec and Sherbrooke, as well as in the district of Terrebonne, whose judge will be transferred to Montreal, and in one of the districts near Quebec, whose judge will be transferred to Quebec, the law will come into force at once. District judges will have to be appointed at Quebec and Montreal, who will at once commence to perform their judicial duties. The district judges at