

The Legal News.

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DISTRIBUTION OF JUDICIAL WORK.

The proportion of the work performed by the Judges of the Montreal District to that which devolves upon the Judges of all the other Districts combined, is a subject frequently referred to, and it will be useful, therefore, to have the aid of the official returns in dealing with it. We find the returns for 1881 in the last issue of the Official Gazette. In 1881, there were 1,495 contested cases in the Superior Court, and of these 807, or more than one-half, were in the District of Montreal. In 1880, there were 1,699 contested cases, and 939 were in Montreal. In 1879 there were 2,129 contested cases of which 1,237 were in Montreal. The total number has declined, probably owing to the prosperity of the country, but the proportion of cases in Montreal to those in the other districts has remained about the same. The appealable cases in the Circuit Court in the country districts have of course to be taken into account, but the number of contested appealable cases is inconsiderable, and does not materially change the proportion. In fact it is more than offset by the greater number of non-appealable cases in the Montreal District. On the Superior Court Judges in Montreal, moreover, is imposed the work of the Court of Review, and we see that in 1881 there were 184 judgments in Review; and in 1880 there were 212.

It is apparent, therefore, that more than one-half of the judicial work of the Province continues to be centred in Montreal, where it is performed by six Judges, with such aid as they receive from the Judges of the surrounding districts. If we leave out Quebec and St. Francis, each Judge in Montreal does about as much work as the combined labor of the Judges of all the other Districts.

It is to be regretted that the returns are not made from all the districts on the same principle. It is evident that it is not so, because we find that while in Montreal in 1881 there were 807 contested cases and only 672 judgments in such cases, in St. Francis there were 51 contested cases and 123 judgments. Clearly, in

the former case only final judgments are counted, and in the latter interlocutory judgments as well.

In Gaspé, for which a claim has been made to have a special resident Judge, we find that the business in the Superior Court has been as follows:—In 1877, 1 contested S. C. case; 1 in 1878; 5 in 1879; 6 in 1880; 13 in 1881; or 26 cases in five years.

THE STAMP ACT.

The business of the country has been relieved from a troublesome impost by the abolition of the Stamp duties. This tax never yielded a large sum, and it was provocative of a peculiarly disagreeable sort of litigation, besides being a source of anxiety to many who were not familiar with the somewhat cumbrous clauses of the Acts regulating the subject. It would, perhaps, have been better to have made the announcement of the change simultaneously with the repeal of the law, because the report of the abolition of the tax may mislead some who do not follow closely the proceedings of Parliament, and who may imagine that there is no need now of affixing stamps. The tax, of course, has to be paid until the Act is repealed in the ordinary way, which will, doubtless, be done immediately.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE INDEX-REPORTER, Edited by Robert R. Newell, counsellor-at-law; Albany, Weed, Parsons & Co.

We acknowledge the receipt of the first number of the *Index-Reporter*. This is a project which must be of immense advantage to the profession if faithfully carried out. It is intended to be issued once a month, and to give a reference more or less full, to every reported case decided in England and America during the next preceding month. The first issue, comprising 36 pages, contains 1,354 references. Some such publication seems to be a necessity to those who desire to keep up with contemporary decisions as they appear.

EXPULSION FROM CLUBS.

On the 19th February last we offered some observations on the subject of expulsion from clubs, and came to the conclusion that, while clubs or committees claiming to exercise the