

superior court judgments in contested cases for the province of Quebec amount to 16,220. Now for the city of Montreal alone, in the district of Montreal, out of this total number of 16,220 judgments there are 7,708. That is to say, again, the half of the judgments rendered in the province of Quebec in contested cases. Now it is easily seen that if in certain districts the judges have hardly one, two or three months' work to do a year, the judges of Montreal district are so overcrowded with work that they cannot do it all and are obliged to call to their assistance the judges of the surrounding country districts and even to call the judges of country districts lower down in the river than Quebec, and the obstruction is such in the Court of Appeals at Montreal, that, as I said a moment ago, if you to-day inscribe a case at the Court of Appeals at Montreal you would be obliged to wait two years before being able to plead it. I say that this state of things cannot continue to exist. If you inscribe a case at Enquetes et Merites at Montreal to-day,—by this procedure which ought to give you judgment as quickly as possible—you are obliged, if our information is correct, to wait nine months before you can have your case heard.

#### IMPROVEMENT DEMANDED.

I ask you, can we tolerate such a system in this advanced age? Is this the despatch which litigation must expect in our province of Quebec? I ask myself if we are not much more behind the times than all the countries surrounding us, and the European countries too on this question? I say that these abuses and this obstruction which exist in Montreal cannot continue, and, as long as I am Attorney-General, in view of the importance of the city of Montreal, I will work with all my might to make our judicial system the equal of others, the equal of the system of the surrounding countries. Now, sir, I declare that for twenty years there have been complaints of the system which at present exists in this province, and not only in Montreal but all over the province I repeat that at least in a dozen districts there are judges who have not more than three months' work a year, while in the districts of Montreal, Quebec and Sherbrooke, the judges have more to do than they can ac-

complish. This is still another thing which must not continue to exist. This inequality in the distribution of work is an anomaly which whoever is solicitous for the best administration of justice in this country cannot permit to continue.

#### PAST REPRESENTATIONS IN POINT.

In 1880 Judge Pagnello, who was not then a judge, who, consequently, had not then the interest in the matter that might be attributed to him to-day, in common with the other judges, wrote in letters which have remained famous, that for ten years past the existing system had been complained of, and he proposed another system, he proposed a reform in the judicial administration of the country. Then in 1880, there had already existed for ten years and he demanded a remedy. In 1880 the Bar of Montreal itself passed a resolution asking the two Governments, those of Ottawa and Quebec, to modify the present system, because it did not give satisfaction. A committee was formed to meet the members of the local and Federal Governments, but so, some reason or other, the Governments did not agree, and the proposition fell to the ground. In 1882 Mr. Larue, whom we all knew, wrote some letters in the same sense. In 1888 a commission consisting of Mr. Justice Jette and Messrs. Lorrain and Weir said what follows in their report to the Prime Minister and the Attorney-General, and I would draw the special attention of the honorable members to this report, which is very well drawn up. It will be seen at the 22nd page of this report that the commissioners insist on judicial reorganization, and I quote it in reply to those who said that no complaints had been made and that no reform had been demanded, and for the benefit of those who say that all is running smoothly and that no one is complaining of the existing system, I quote it in order to prevent my passing as an innovator who wishes to reform everything, for the pleasure of reforming, and in order to prove that I am sustained by authorities, who are authorities both for myself and for the House.

#### WHAT A COMMISSION FOUND.

This is what the report of Hon.

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