

Without making any further remarks on the principle of decentralisation, may it not be asked, with perfect propriety, what inducements are held out to members of the bar by the Supplement to the *Canada Gazette* to practise in the Country Districts. Would it be possible for them to obtain a bare subsistence from the legitimate business of the Courts? It may be very pleasant for the Judges, who receive £800 per annum for doing not one-tenth part of the work performed by their brethren in Quebec and Montreal; but for the barristers resident in some of those Districts, the prospect is not in the slightest degree enlivening.

The District of Montreal, under our present Judicature system, is entitled to four, that of Quebec to but three, resident Judges. It becomes necessary to examine the legal business of both Districts, in order to see whether that arrangement be equitable or not. The index of the work to be done by the Bench, is the number of contested cases, and we find that, in 1860, 239 cases were contested in Quebec and 274 in Montreal, in the Superior Court; and 1933 in the Circuit Court in Quebec against 1056 in Montreal. Thus Montreal leads Quebec in the Superior Court by 35 cases, whilst Quebec leads Montreal in the Circuit Court by 877 cases. 800 oppositions are returned in Quebec, whilst but 659 are filed in Montreal, in the Superior Court. The Sheriff received in Quebec 422 writs of execution; in Montreal that officer received 425. The number of sales *de bonis*, in Quebec, were 62, *de terris* 128; in Montreal, 57 *de bonis* and 43 *de terris*. \$225,035.00 were realized in Quebec by the sale of lands; but \$56,977.00 in Montreal. Personal estate to the amount of \$12,832.20 was sold under execution in Quebec; whilst in Montreal \$18,491.25 were realized by such sales.

Surely, in the face of such statistics, it cannot be pretended that the business of the Montreal District is one-fourth larger than that of Quebec. Is there any reason, then, for the presence there of four Judges of the Superior Court? It must be remarked, moreover, that during the greater portion of the last year, but two Judges acted in the District of Quebec, the Chief Justice having obtained, in the early part of last summer, leave of absence.

The non-nomination of an Assistant, has interfered seriously with the public business, and accounts for the rendering of but 189 judgments in contested cases in the Superior Court, whilst 248 were pronounced in Montreal.

In 1860, the expenses of the Prothonotary's office in Quebec amounted to \$15,054.40, whilst the receipts were but \$8869.32; the salaries of the clerks in the Circuit Court office and its disbursements amounted to \$9217.94, whilst its receipts were but \$8088.27.

In Montreal, the receipts in the Circuit Court office amounted to \$9632.29, the expenditure to \$2559.96; in the Prothonotary's office, the receipts were \$13,474.47, the expenditure was \$17,442.58.

In Quebec, then, the Government is forced to make up \$6185.08, in Montreal \$3968.41, to the Prothonotary, to which may be added \$1000 to the Circuit Court Clerk, making in all over \$11,000 expense incurred by funding the fees.