

Hon. Mr. ASELTINE: Could that situation not be overcome by a system of double filing as is done in Surrogate matters?

Mr. Justice URQUHART: Yes; the information is reported to Toronto at the present time.

Hon. Mr. ASELTINE: In Surrogate matters one can make a search with the Surrogate Registrar at the provincial capital and can get all the information there no matter where letters of administration were applied for.

Mr. Justice URQUHART: We can do that in Toronto, I think.

Hon. Mr. HAYDEN: Is there enough work for forty-seven different jurisdictions?

Mr. Justice URQUHART: I do not think there would be. The bulk of bankruptcy work is in the city of Toronto, and most of the creditors are there or in the larger centres.

Hon. Mr. ASELTINE: Have you any record of the number of bankruptcies in the province of Ontario last year?

Mr. Justice URQUHART: There were not very many last year, because these are extraordinarily good times: but my recollection is that in 1932, which I suppose was the worst year of the depression, we had about one thousand bankruptcies. I doubt if we had two hundred last year.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reilly is here to give us exact figures a little later.

Mr. Justice URQUHART: Another objection to decentralization is that you might have a petition in bankruptcy filed at two places or perhaps half a dozen places by different creditors on or about the same day, which would make for great confusion.

Hon. Mr. MORAUD: Could the jurisdiction not be the domicile of the debtor? If the debtor's domicile was in Toronto, then the jurisdiction would be in Toronto.

Hon. Mr. LEGER: That is done under the Bill of Sale Act.

Mr. Justice URQUHART: The point is that there is a disadvantage in having several places of registry. In 1932, when we had roughly one thousand bankruptcies in Ontario, it was not considered necessary with all that work to have more than one registrar. Why make a change now when the number of bankruptcies is so small?

Hon. Mr. MORAUD: Should we not consider the rights of debtors? They ought not all be required to go to Toronto or any other one place in the province.

Hon. Mr. HAYDEN: I doubt if this proposed amendment is intended to be in the interest of the debtors.

Hon. Mr. MORAUD: Well, should we not look upon it from the point of view of the interest of all parties concerned?

Hon. Mr. ASELTINE: I understand the creditors are asking for this.

Hon. Mr. HAYDEN: The creditors might be anywhere in the province.

Hon. Mr. MORAUD: If the debtor is in Hamilton and most of the creditors are there also, should they all have to go to Toronto?

Mr. Justice URQUHART: In practice it hardly works out that way. The creditors are pretty widely scattered, as a rule. As a matter of fact, many of them are in Montreal. I am astonished sometimes at the large number of creditors who are from Montreal, though of course that is the chief centre for certain lines of business.

Under the Act the Registrar in Bankruptcy is given wide powers. He can make receiving orders when unopposed, hear all unopposed and ex parte applications, make interim orders, hear appeals in certain cases, and so on. I