

**Hon. Mr. Fisher** said if there was no other way of getting the information he would not object.

The motion was agreed to.

#### JUDGES OF QUEBEC

**Mr. Fortin** moved for correspondence with respect to the sittings of the Courts in the district of Gaspé; also for correspondence with the Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench, and of the Superior Court, of the Province of Quebec, during the last three years, respecting the demand of leaves of absence, and respecting representations made on account of the failure of the administration of justice, arising from the absence or illness of certain judges, or from any other cause.

**Mr. Masson (Soulanges)** supported the motion; in doing so he expressed his opinion that Mr. Cartier's Judiciary Law, although thought at the time to be a very excellent measure, had proved a failure. At the time for the sitting of the last Court for his district, the Judge wrote from Montreal that he could not come. The plaintiff, defendants and witnesses had come there at great expense, and they had no Judge to hold the Court. They had a bad set of Judges in Montreal. He did not say that they were not men of high legal standing, but the public sentiment and feeling was against them; and why? because according to public rumour two of them were men out of their heads; two others were men of bad moral character, and another was so deaf that in a case where a man sued for \$10 the judge gave judgment for \$100. Some remedy ought to be provided for this state of things.

**Mr. Masson (Terrebonne)** also expressed his opinion that the judiciary system was wrong from top to bottom.

**Hon. Mr. Chauveau** made some remarks in French on the jurisdiction of the Local Government and Legislatures with reference to the Judiciary.

**Mr. Blake** said the Local Parliament had power to abolish courts and establish new courts and new judgeships; but unless the Federal Government agreed in their policy, and provided adequate salaries, the action of the Local Parliament would be useless. It was obvious there must be accordant action between the Local and Federal Governments; but to the Federal Government peculiarly belonged the power of securing something

like uniformity in the system. He thought what was wrong in Quebec was that there was no such power of pensioning as existed to some extent in Ontario. What were a few hundred pounds a year spent in paying a faithful public servant, who found his health and strength impaired by years and otherwise, compared with the wrong and suffering sustained by the public, and the degradation of the Bench which followed the retention in office of any man not possessed of his full faculties. He repeated that there ought to be uniformity; it could not be right that there should be a pension system in Ontario and none in Quebec. He hoped such a system would be adopted there as would prevent a recurrence of such accusations as had been brought to-day.

**Hon. Mr. Dunkin** agreed in the view taken by Mr. Blake. He thought it was the most absurd pretence at economy imaginable to keep on the Bench a man who was nearly or over eighty, and wholly incapable of work, rather than give him a reasonable pension. It was the worst economy to salary such a man, not to do nothing, but to do what was worse than nothing.

**Mr. Chamberlin** said there never was a time in the Province of Quebec when the administration of justice was so far behind what it ought to be as at present; but he was not sure that the means of escape could be obtained altogether in the direction indicated by the members for Durham and Brome. There was no doubt, as had been remarked, that the Province of Ontario so far as he had been able to study it, had one of the most perfect systems of judiciary in the world. There, while there were a few men, belonging to the Superior Court, who were paid large and liberal salaries, the great bulk of the work was done by County Court and other inferior judges. Now, to do the work effectually in Quebec they would require 20 or 25 first class judges, who should be paid first-class salaries, and allowed to retire, in due time, on handsome pensions. If they could so reorganize their system as to get a few first class judges for Superior Courts, then they might be supplemented by others of an inferior class, but quite well qualified to do the balance of the work. Until they had a reorganization of their Courts in the Province of Quebec, on some such system, they would never occupy the position in this respect which they were proud to accord the sister Province of Ontario.