

tional judges. It is also regrettable that these judges are not paid higher salaries than they will receive under this resolution. The duties of these judges are enormous, and very fatiguing, and it is very unfair to expect them to perform these duties at a salary of only \$3,000 a year. As regards the additional judge of the Superior Court, the same anomaly applies as in the other case, namely, that the federal authority can only name the judge, whereas the local authority makes the demand for such a nomination. In this case, the appointment has been demanded for the district of Sherbrooke, and I will not deny that in that district judicial affairs are in a congested state. But what I think the federal authorities ought to do is to bring what pressure they can to bear upon the local legislature to bring about a change in the composition of our tribunals in the province of Quebec. The present organization is known to be obsolete. It dates back to 1854, or thereabouts, when different conditions prevailed, and when it was considered popular to decentralize the administration of justice. But I do not think that scheme is one which commends itself to our people at the present day. We have certainly not too many judges in the Superior Court of the province of Quebec for the business that has to be done, even with the additional judge provided for in this resolution; but the distribution of the work is pre-eminently unjust and unequal. I am now mentioning facts which are well known to all who practice at the bar of the province of Quebec. There are some districts where the judges are comparatively unoccupied, or at least, have a great deal of free time, whereas in other districts, such, for instance, as the district of St. Francis, and even more so in the district of Montreal, the judges are overworked. The business of the courts has increased in a far greater ratio than the number of judges. In 1873, I think we had six judges in the district of Montreal; we have ten now, but the increase in the business has been far greater than this increase in the number of judges. The business has increased three-fold since that time. Therefore, the resolution which we are about to pass presents this anomaly, that we are remedying a grievance which exists to a certain extent in one district, whereas in the district of Montreal, where the congestion is far greater, we are powerless to apply a remedy unless the means I mentioned a moment ago are adopted by the Department of Justice. The result of the congested state of affairs in the district of Montreal is that the judges are unable to perform the duties assigned to that district alone, and they are obliged to seek the assistance of judges residing in outside districts who have considerable leisure time, and the cost of this is considerable. The Solicitor General is aware that last year, if I am not mistaken, we had to pay nearly

\$16,000 for the travelling expenses of these outside judges. With this amount we could have provided for three more judges for the district of Montreal, who would have resided there, and who would have found ample work to attend to. These deficiencies existing in our province are well known to the lawyers practicing there; and the only thing we can urge here is that the strongest possible pressure should be brought to bear by the Department of Justice on the local authorities to bring about a change in our system. From what I have heard, I have no hesitation in saying that the system that prevails in the province of Ontario is far preferable. Before resuming my seat, I wish to call the attention of the Department of Justice and of the committee to the inadequate salary which is provided for the judges assigned to the district of Montreal. Those judges are paid to-day the same salary that they were paid twenty-five years ago, although it is a well-known fact that the cost of living in the city of Montreal is nearly 40 per cent higher than it was in 1873, when the salaries of the judges were readjusted. Since that time the salaries of all public employees have been increased, whereas those of the judges of our courts are left as they were then. Not only has the cost of living increased, but the amount of work which these men are called upon to perform to-day is far greater than it was twenty-five years ago. Under these circumstances, it seems to me that the Department of Justice should take into serious consideration the propriety of increasing the salaries of these overworked men. It is a well-known fact that, in the city of Montreal, many of our judges are obliged to have recourse to outside work to provide for the absolute necessities of their families. Of course many of them succeed in obtaining work. Some of them labour in our universities, where we are very glad to see them assisting in the instruction of our youth. Some also have other means of increasing their income, but there is no doubt it is a depressing fact that men of this kind should be obliged to have recourse to outside work in order to obtain the amount absolutely required to meet the expense of living in Montreal. There is no set of men through the British Empire paid as meanly as are the judges in Montreal, considering the expense of living there. Look to England, or any of the British dependencies, and you will find that men occupying positions equivalent to that of the judges in Montreal, are paid twice their salaries. I have here the statistics bearing out what I have said, but I do not wish to weary the committee by reading them, and I am sure they are in the possession of the Department of Justice, and the Solicitor General is well aware of the truth of what I am saying now. The remedy for that state of things lies in a reorganization of the courts, which has to be done by the local authorities, but it