

absolutely necessary. I say, that something should be done to provide against that condition of things. I am quite prepared to say this: That the judges ought really to understand that greater diligence is expected of them and that they should pay closer attention to the performance of their duties, and give—I am speaking now for my own province with the necessities of which I am more familiar than in the case of the other provinces—and give closer attention and more time and more diligence to the performance of their duties. I quite see the necessity of my making that statement in the House. At the same time I do not see how it would be possible for the circuit court of Montreal to perform the duty expected of it if additional assistance is not given to that court.

As to the appointment of an additional judge to the Superior Court of Quebec, that additional judge will be in the district of St. Francis. In that district, which is the centre of the eastern townships, there is but one judge now, and I know from personal experience that the quantity of business done there is such that it is practically impossible for one judge to do the work. Sherbrooke is the chief town of that district. It is the centre of a very prosperous country and there are interests of very great magnitude constantly coming before the court. So far as the judicial district is concerned it is absolutely necessary that there should be assistance given to the one judge there now.

Dealing with the county court judges in Ontario, there can be, in my judgment, no justification for the distinction that is at present made between the county court judge and the junior county court judge. The county court judge under the law as it now stands is appointed at a salary of \$2,000 per annum, and after a number of years' service the salary is increased by \$400, making the maximum \$2,400. The qualifications necessary to be a junior judge are absolutely the same as for a county court judge, and I cannot see why there should be any distinction in the way of salary between men possessed of the same qualifications and called upon to perform, not only the same duties but much more arduous duties, because the junior county court judge in Ontario has also to take the division courts, which places upon him the performance of duties of a more complicated and onerous character than those which the county court judge himself performs.

Mr. HUGHES. This will apply forthwith to judges who have already been three years in office?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. WALLACE. Would the Solicitor General be able to tell us how much the proposed increases will cost the country per year in addition to the present salaries?

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There are eighteen junior county judges receiving an increase of \$400 a year each, an additional judge of the Court of Appeal of Ontario at \$5,000, and an additional judge of the Superior Court of Quebec at \$4,000.

Mr. WALLACE. And travelling expenses?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No. Then, there is \$3,000 for the salary of a Circuit Court judge in Montreal. For the Supreme Court judge of the Yukon territory there is \$4,000 and expenses. There is an increase at Halifax of \$600, and an increase at Charlottetown of \$600. There are four district judges and one junior district judge in Ontario. The four will require \$500 a year each for travelling expenses. We also provide in the second paragraph of the resolution an addition of \$1,000 for a judge who now lives in Montreal and performs the duty of a judge in the district of Terrebonne. He now receives \$4,000, and the intention is to increase his salary to \$5,000 to put him on the same basis as the other judges.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not think my hon. friend has made his explanation of the financial part of his resolution as clear and definite as he should. The only reason for his coming here with this resolution is to inform the committee what will be the financial burden; and, after listening to him, I do not know what it will be. I think he should be a little more definite.

Mr. SPROULE. I do not rise to oppose the Minister's proposal, but to call attention to a discrepancy between the first resolution introduced and the second one, so far as the province of Quebec is concerned. The first resolution provided for an additional judge of the Court of Appeal of Ontario at \$5,000, an additional judge of the Superior Court in the province of Quebec at \$5,000, an additional judge of the Circuit Court of the district of Montreal at \$3,000, a judge of the Supreme Court of the Yukon territory, and so forth. The second resolution provides that the salaries of fourteen puisne judges of the Superior Court of Quebec, whose residences are fixed at Montreal and Quebec, including a judge to whom the district of Terrebonne is assigned, shall be each \$5,000 per annum. In this there is evidence of an afterthought for the purpose of putting on the same basis the judge of the district of Terrebonne, who, I am told, resides in Montreal, and hitherto has been working under another law. A gentleman who has evidently taken some interest in this matter, sends me the following memorandum, which I will read for the information of the Solicitor General:—

I beg to call your attention to the resolution now before the House concerning the fourteen puisne judges of the province of Quebec. It is