

I said. I never invoked as a plea in favour of my demand the expenditure incurred by Mr. Justice Gagné. Like the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) I only touched upon that question in order to point out the hardships which the judge has to undergo in travelling over long distances in his district, without my taking into consideration the expenditure involved.

Mr. SAVARD. (Translation.) I was just coming to that point. Did the hon. gentleman mean to complain on behalf of the judge about the hardships experienced by the latter in attending to his duties in the district of Chicoutimi, or else did he pretend to say that his expenses were too large? The hon. gentleman has laid great stress upon the hardships which this judge has to undergo in the discharge of his judicial duties. I may tell my hon. friend that, from my practical experience of the counties of Chicoutimi, Saguenay and Charlevoix, it does not take eight days to travel from Malbaie to Chicoutimi. Since we have had a Liberal Government at the head of affairs in this country, a Government pledged to a policy of progress, the trains have run regularly three times a week between Quebec and Chicoutimi in winter, and we have a steamboat running every day in summer, so that Judge Gagné could have saved a great deal of time, by travelling in the cars. If he has found it more convenient to travel during such snowstorms as we have had last winter, I fail to see why the Budget should be answerable for it, and why this House should be invited to vote an increase of salary to the honourable judge.

Mr. BERGERON. (Translation.) He should wait till the storm is over, to travel.

Mr. SAVARD. (Translation.) As everybody knows, during the snow storms which raged last winter, some hon. gentlemen took three days to cover the distance from Montreal to Ottawa. The hon. member for Charlevoix should not forget those facts. If Judge Gagné, when called upon to administer justice to the intelligent electors of my hon. colleague from Charlevoix, has deemed it more convenient to travel in the way he did, it was, no doubt, because he wished to avail himself of the opportunity to visit Quebec and Montreal on his way to Malbaie, the county town of the district. I have quite frequently travelled over that road and I speak with knowledge. I am satisfied that an ordinary man could cover that distance on foot in two days. I was surprised at hearing the hon. gentleman say that Mr. Justice Gagné had taken a week to cover that distance, and I am not far from believing that the good faith of the hon. gentleman was abused. I agree with the hon. gentleman who shares with me the honour of representing this judicial district in the House, that there exists a certain anomaly from the standpoint taken by him in dealing with this question, and, should the salaries

of the judges be readjusted, I have no doubt but that steps would be taken to remedy the grievance complained of. I fail to see why, when the salaries of judges were originally fixed, the judges for the judicial districts of Chicoutimi, Saguenay and Gaspé were not put on the same footing as the other judges. Probably this was owing to the fact, and the hon. gentlemen will no doubt agree with me that, at that time, the county of Chicoutimi and Saguenay, as well as that of Charlevoix, were not represented in this House, as they are to-day, by members able to press upon the Government the merits of their respective districts. I fail to see any other reason for the existence of that anomaly, because had it been pointed out at that time, I have no doubt but that it would have been corrected. The districts of Chicoutimi and Gaspé are the two largest districts in the province of Quebec, if not the most populous or the most commercial; and in view of the considerable hardships which the judges have to undergo and of the expenditure involved in travelling they should have been put on the same basis as the other judges. I shall not trespass any further upon the indulgence of this House, but while I am on my feet, I wish to say this: I am glad to see that the Bill now before the House does not provide for an increase of salary in favour of the judges of Chicoutimi and Gaspé, because such an increase, to my mind, would have been at variance with the interests of the county. If those two judges against whom I have not a word to say, are under the impression that they are not adequately paid for their services, let them step down from the bench, and, at all events, the administration of justice will not suffer from such a step.

Mr. BERGERON. I wish to remind my hon. friend the Solicitor General that he omitted, no doubt inadvertently, to answer the question I put to him the other day, and which was again put to him to-day by the member for Charlevoix (Mr. Angers). It was with regard to a conflict of jurisdiction between this Parliament and the Quebec legislature. This resolution provides, so far as the court of revision is concerned:

But no travelling allowance shall be granted to any judge requested to sit in review, under section 1 of chapter 20 of the statutes of 1898 of the legislature of Quebec, unless it is certified by the chief justice or judge discharging the duties of the chief justice in the district, that the attendance of such judge was necessary by reason of the illness, incapacity or absence of one of the judges resident at Montreal or Quebec, as the case may be.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am of opinion that, take for instance the district of Quebec, the four judges are quite competent to dispose of all the cases that come before the court of review, and I can see no justification for the additional expenditure entailed by bringing in outside judges