

to cause most of the present inconveniences and disadvantages to disappear.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: In the first place, I want to commend the member for Dorchester (Mr. Cannon) upon the study he has given to this question and also to congratulate him upon his sudden, violent, and, I hope, permanent, conversion to the recognition of provincial rights. During this same session we witnessed an absolute disallowance, a flouting, a complete disregard of provincial rights in the case of a Nova Scotia statute, and it is both refreshing and interesting to see the good that discussion has done and the converts it has already made.

Mr. JACOBS: May I point out that desperate diseases require desperate remedies?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Apparently the disease looked so bad that the remedy, which is best illustrated by that frame of mind which grants to the provinces their rights and acknowledges their jurisdiction, has already happily been established just where it was most needed. I agree that there are difficulties in Quebec. I do not personally know anything about them, but so many hon. gentlemen have said they exist that I am sure they do. I have no doubt that too many trustees were appointed in the very first instance, as my hon. friend says. The former government appointed 182 trustees for Quebec—a larger number than had been appointed for any other province. In that list were included all the accountants and all the gentlemen the hon. member referred to as having done business before, and it included also a lot of others. But even at that, apparently it was not large enough, because the new government promptly appointed 66 more, so that we had a total of 248 in that province. Revocations in the case of people not putting up their security reduced the number by 39. I am frank to say that 209 trustees for Quebec are altogether too many. I suggest that the minister consider the advisability of recognizing that fact and of putting Quebec upon a more reasonable basis in that respect. He will have no difficulty in finding out where the troubles are or in getting the act on a working basis in that province, because so far as I am aware it is on a working basis everywhere else. Would it not be better to make an honest attempt to improve matters in the province of Quebec by cutting down the number of trustees, getting it back to what the situation was before the legislation was introduced? Would it not be better to do that than to upset every other province with the idea of helping a

comparatively small matter of regulation or administration in Quebec? I recall very well the old days when assignments were plentiful when there were many commercial and law firms specializing in assignments, firms which had their representatives here, there and everywhere. We remember that certain gentlemen who could be named by the practitioners in almost every town and who specialized in that kind of work always had a little valise packed in their office in order that they might take the first train out where there was a chance of getting an assignment. We all recollect the fights that used to be worked up, the money that was spent, and the indirect preferences that resulted. Is it wise to go back to that condition? For that is what we are doing. Again, is this thing not costing enough money as it is? Why should any unnecessary interest be brought into the matter? I am very much in sympathy with my hon. friend from the province of Quebec when he speaks about junior officials having large powers—and we propose to increase those powers; we are aggravating the evil he complains of. It is the first step that is important in matters of bankruptcy and assignment; the great thing is to get in quickly and see that the right thing is done at the right time. Well, we are now saying that the person who is to take the first steps is the class of official that my hon. friend from Quebec has spoken about.

Mr. CANNON: My hon. friend is under a misapprehension as to the word "custodian." In our province, under these amendments, the prothonotary, the chief official of the Superior Court, will be the one who will control the operation of the act. We are satisfied with that. Before, he had no authority.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I do not know how it is in Quebec, and I will take my hon. friend's statement for that at once, but in Ontario we have the local registrar everywhere. The vast majority of these gentlemen have never had the slightest amount of commercial experience, absolutely none. Very many of them have very little experience of the ways of the world or anything else outside of the town where they may have had a practice and subsequently received the appointment, and many of them have never practised at all. Yet it is to gentlemen of that experience that estates are now to be given, just at a time when decisive action is the most necessary. Is that a good thing?

Again, in order to protect—I do not know why we have this other feature brought in—but in order to protect the estate—I do not