

Counties.	Popula- tion, 1881.	Popula- tion according to the cen- sus, 1891.	Excess of Births.	What the population should be in 1891.	Increase.	Emigra- tion.
St. Maurice.....	12,986	12,267	2,300	15,286	.....	3,019
Soulanges.....	10,220	9,608	1,950	12,170	.....	2,562
Temiscouata.....	25,484	25,698	6,040	31,524	.....	5,836
Terrebonne.....	22,969	23,128	4,333	27,302	.....	4,174
Vaudreuil.....	11,485	10,803	2,080	13,565	.....	2,662
Verchères.....	12,499	12,257	1,810	14,309	.....	2,052
Yamaska.....	17,091	16,058	3,080	20,171	.....	4,113
					53,205	163,114
						53,205
Total of emigration						109,909

What is the result of the last decade ? As I have said, the census returns do not give us the exact amount of population. Instead of having an increase in the province of Quebec, we have a large decrease, as I have shown by the figures I have just given. In those last ten years, the population has decreased by 163,114 in the rural districts, and has decreased in all the province by 109,909. Now, it has been said by members on the other side that the decrease in the rural districts was compensated by the increase in the cities. Well, that large city of Montreal, which should show so large an increase of population, has only increased during those last ten years 14,000. Take for example my county, Rouville, the population of which in 1881 was only 18,000, it shows a decrease since then of 5,500. Take three or four counties, or rural districts, whose population is about 40,000, they show a decrease corresponding to the increase of the city of Montreal, with its population of about 200,000. I contend, therefore, that we ought not, under the circumstances, to vote anything for immigration. I do not at all see the necessity of doing so, when our own population is leaving the country, and I hope the Government will not, at all events, increase the money expended for that immigration, as they propose to do by the Estimate.

Administration of Justice - to provide for the salaries of two Circuit Judges of the District of Montreal. \$6,000

Mr. LAURIER. What is the meaning of this item ?

Mr. OUMET. By an Act passed last session, it was provided that judges of the Circuit Court should sit as such exclusively, and the object of this is to provide their salary. I suppose the judges will be nominated by the 1st of July.

Mr. LAURIER. I am surprised at the change of view on the part of the Government. In 1889, if I recollect right, Mr. Mercier appointed two judges as district magistrates, giving them the same jurisdiction as

Mr. BRODEUR.

these judges, that is, up to \$100. This Act was disallowed ; this Government would not allow it, though the province, under that Act, would have paid the salaries of the judges. The new Government of Quebec passes a law giving practically the same jurisdiction to two judges, under a different name. The only difference is that under Mr. Mercier's Act the judges would have been paid by the province, and under this Act they will be paid by the Dominion.

Mr. OUMET. It is rather late in the day to discuss the district magistrate courts. The district magistrate courts have been in the past under the jurisdiction of the Local Government. I am not discussing the wisdom of the then Minister of Justice in disallowing this Bill, because they were held to be an encroachment on the Circuit Court jurisdiction. The hon. gentleman knows that the Circuit Courts of Lower Canada are part of the judicial system that has existed since before Confederation. The only change is that until now the judges of the Superior Court had to hold Circuit Courts, and in order to provide for the speedy administration of justice in the city of Montreal, the Local Government has provided for the appointment of two judges who will receive about the same amount as one judge and will do twice the work. The judges of the Superior Court have been complaining for many years that they were obliged to hold that Circuit Court. Now, that this disadvantage is removed, no doubt there will be no further cause for complaint on this score, and I think the change will be to the benefit of the public of the city of Montreal.

Mr. LAURIER. The hon. gentleman will surely admit that he is altogether in error. The district magistrate courts had always been in existence in the province of Quebec since the year 1869, as the hon. gentleman knows. Their jurisdiction, from 1869 to 1889, was not \$100, but simply \$50. The only thing that Mr. Mercier did was, so far as the city of Montreal was concerned, to increase the jurisdiction of these judges to \$100, giving them practically the same juris-