

ditor General suggested that it was curious that so much had been said about the Superior Court judges of the province of Quebec and so little about the county court judges of the other provinces. The reason, I take it, is this. This Bill does not propose to increase the number of county court judges in Ontario, and there is no statement with regard to those like the one I read to the committee, when considering the resolution on which this Bill is founded, and that was the opinion of the Attorney General of the province of Quebec, who said that they already had more than sufficient judges in that province now, but the trouble was the reorganization or the question of the redistribution of work. Take, for instance, that sentence to which I attach tremendous importance, and which will be sufficient until met by a specific statement:

At least in a dozen districts there are judges who have not more than three months' work a year, while in the district of Montreal, and so on.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This Bill, which makes it necessary to appoint a judge for the district of St. Francis, was passed when my hon. friend opposite, the member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) was Attorney General of the province of Quebec, and it is at his request that the resolution was introduced.

Mr. BERGERON. Does my hon. friend mean to say that Mr. Casgrain asked for the appointment of a new judge or simply for the appointment of another judge at Sherbrooke, to be taken from one of the other judges?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. A new man entirely.

Mr. BERGERON. I do not believe that.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Read the statute, and then perhaps you will believe it.

Mr. BERGERON. When the hon. member for Montmorency is here he may explain it himself.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I do not care whether Mr. Casgrain represented a Conservative or a Liberal Government in the province of Quebec, the fact is that the Attorney General of Quebec endeavoured to meet the abuse which has grown up there, and which is due to the fact that there it has been allowed to exist, and that around it the affections of the people have grown and all that kind of thing. If you go on adding to that system, of course no Attorney General of Quebec will find it an easy thing to reduce the expenditure of federal money in that province. Then, the right hon. Prime Minister particularly—for he has not the support of the Solicitor General in that view—attempted to come to the rescue and

said that unless there was a case of fraud proved on the part of the local legislature of Quebec, it was the duty of this Government to shut its eyes to extravagance in the number of justices. We have nothing to do with whether they are required or not. The local legislature creates the judgeship and our duty is clear—it is simply to supply the money. And the Solicitor General's main argument is that Sir John Macdonald on one occasion said so in this House. But that speech of Sir John Macdonald was made, curiously enough, when the leader of the present Government and Mr. Blake were strongly opposing the Bill introduced by Sir John's Government to provide salaries for additional judges. These gentlemen then opposed in a most vigorous manner the proposition of the Government. Proof was given as to the necessity for the provision of these salaries. The Senate on that occasion, I think, threw out the Bill altogether.

Mr. SPEAKER. As we have to adjourn at one o'clock, perhaps the hon. member (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) will move the adjournment of the debate.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 1 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### Second Sitting.

THURSDAY, 2nd June, 1898.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### BOUNDARIES OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 160) respecting the boundaries of the province of Quebec. He said: The Bill is for the purpose of ratifying a conventional boundary on the north and north-east of the province of Quebec, which was agreed upon between the Government of the province of Quebec and the Government of the Dominion, and ratified by an Order in