

centage of appeals to the total number of cases in the Superior Court is about 19. The learned gentleman gives the percentage of appeals in other countries, and his statements on that point are very instructive. In Geneva the percentage of appeals was 7 from 1817 to 1835; and in 1865 the percentage was 10. In France, from 1841 to 1845, the percentage was 15; in 1846, 14 per cent.; in 1847 13; in 1849 12 per cent., and from 1866 to 1870, 11 per cent. The reason they are so low in that country is simply that decisions are not rendered by one Judge but by two or three. In the Dutch States the percentage of appeals is 7½; in England, 8. My hon. friend from West Durham said that perhaps the large number of appeals in our Province was due to the character of the French race, and he mentioned to the House the dictum of a French monarch who said the French were so fond of war that in days of peace they went to law with one another. This reproach has been answered by Mr. Pagnuelo, who says that statistics show that in the Province of Quebec the English population is as fond of litigation as the French. It is a fact that in proportion to their numbers more law suits are taken by the English population than by the French. Several remedies have been suggested for the crowded state of the judicial business in the district of Montreal. Mr. Pagnuelo, who has given a great deal of attention to the subject, has suggested that a law should be passed by the Local Legislature providing that a certain number of Judges should live in Montreal, to act there, and at the same time to go into the country districts when required. I will not undertake to suggest the proper remedy, but it is evident that the present system is bad, and the consequence is the justice is badly administered and gives general dissatisfaction to the people of that Province. Something must be done. The whole system must be remodelled, so as to render necessary the decisions of our Courts by three Judges, instead of one. The hon. leader of the Opposition has quoted from papers which have been laid upon the Table of this House from time to time, containing suggestions made by the Judges and Bar of Montreal. In 1877 a demand was made for a Judge in Insolvency, and it was meant that he should be in addition to those already appointed. It was then represented by Mr. Justice Johnson, Mr. Justice Mackay, Mr. Justice Torrance, Mr. Justice A. Dorion, and Mr. Justice Papineau :

"That the exigencies of the administration of justice in the district of Montreal urgently require that the Judges in charge of that district should have additional aid in the performance of their duties, and further representing that such aid would be materially supplied by the appointment of a special Judge in Insolvency for the district of Montreal."

At that time the Judges felt that the appointment of an additional Judge was necessary to the efficient conduct of the business of the Insolvency Court. But notwithstanding the repeal of the Insolvency Law, the business of the Montreal Courts is so enormous that the administration of justice really suffers for the want of additional Judges. For instance, let us take the Chamber business which is a very important element in the administration of justice. That business in Montreal is done from half-past ten o'clock to eleven, and the Judge who sits in Chambers is obliged to take possession of a Court which is known as the Third Division, sitting from eleven to four o'clock. Between those hours it is frequently impossible for members of the Bar to have access to the Judge in Chambers. Sometimes they must wait with their clients for hours to the serious inconvenience, and sometimes the serious loss of the litigants. We all know that these matters in Chamber require to be conducted with celerity, and it is important that the Judge should be accessible at all business hours. For that reason alone it is evident that a nomination of a seventh Judge is necessary. It is true that Judges come from the country districts to the assistance of the Montreal Judges, but suppose one of them, through illness or any other uncontrollable cause, is

not able to attend, what is the consequence? Parties are there with their witnesses but cannot be heard for want of a Judge. Cases of that kind happen too often. One word about the Court of Queen's Bench. The hon. member for West Durham has quoted Mr. Justice Ramsay, who is of opinion that four Judges will be sufficient to do the business of that Court, leaving the fifth Judge to attend to the criminal business. As a member of the Montreal Bar, I am personally aware that lawyers and litigants object to submit their cases to four Judges. They do not like to run the risk of the inconvenience and expense of a rehearing. They want the deliberations of the full Court, being confident that their cases will be better examined and decided. I know that is the public feeling in Montreal, and in the Court of Appeals the lawyers generally refuse to submit their cases to four Judges. The nomination therefore of a sixth Judge is a necessity. The Hon. Justice Ramsay suggests another mode of clearing the roll of the Court of Appeals, which is always crowded. He suggests that it should sit from day to day until the business of the Court is exhausted. This plan has been adopted, and the Court of Appeals sat from the 1st of November last until about the 23rd, and then adjourned to Quebec to hold the term there. On the 11th of December it came back to Montreal and sat until Christmas. That Court is now sitting and has been for the last fifteen days, and, strange to say, the roll seems to be just as crowded to-day as it was the first day they sat in November. After this month it will be impossible for that Court to sit again till next May, because one Judge of that Court is bound to sit in the Criminal Court from the 24th of March; and unless we provide for the salary of a seventh Judge, and permit that Court to sit from day to day until the business is exhausted, it will be impossible to do justice to the claimants and to the rights of the population of Montreal. I hope every member from Quebec will express his views upon this subject. I believe I am expressing the general opinion in that Province that there is a desire not only for a better administration of justice but also to decrease the expenditure of the Province, that the administration of justice should be modified and remodelled. The reason why we have not been able hitherto to do it is owing to the weakness of the succeeding Local Governments in Quebec. They cannot pass a Bill of that kind without exciting local opposition from country members. But here we have no such political complications. A Government with a majority of eighty at its back can well afford a free discussion on this important subject, especially as the hon. leader of the Opposition has placed the question on such a broad and liberal basis, and has removed from the region of party politics. I say that every member from the Province of Quebec should impress upon the public of that Province the importance of having their system of judicial procedure remodelled. We should bring back the country Judges, and set them at work in Montreal or other large centres where there is so much work to be done, which would not only be for the good of the people, but also for their own good.

Mr. CIMON. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I should address this House, for I feel some hesitation in doing so, after what has fallen from the lips of the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Girouard). I am but a country lawyer, practising in a district wherein, as has been said by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier, there has been but a single case of litigation in 1877, and none in the year following. I must therefore be but a half-starved, hungry and thirsty lawyer. Another reason causes me to tremble, and it is, that the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake), who has spoken this afternoon, has drawn so sad a picture of an educated man residing in the country, that really I feel somewhat ashamed at finding myself this evening in a House composed of so many intelligent men. The hon. member for West Durham has said: "Why appoint a Judge in the country? Why withdraw him from the city? There is