

tracts of country which were not inhabited when the Act of 1857 was passed. You have, for instance, the vast region of Lake St. John. You have the great region to the north of Montreal, and you have other regions in the province where there are no courts, where there is not even a circuit court, and where witnesses and suitors have to come at great expense to the county *chef lieu*. Thus, Mr. Speaker, you have, for instance, in the District of Three Rivers, the important county of Nicolet, which is separated from the remainder of the District of Three Rivers by the River St. Lawrence, and for many weeks in the spring and autumn these people cannot cross over to Three Rivers to attend to their law business. You have, likewise, other regions in the county of Ottawa which are similarly situated. I am constantly requested to establish Circuit Courts in these places, but with the law as it now stands the Circuit Court cannot be established there, because not more than one Circuit Court can be established in a county. Consequently I was right when I said that under my bill there is more judicial decentralization than there was under the old system.

*Appeals from the District Court.*

I now come to appeals from the District Court. Complaints have been often made that in our system of organization of the law courts there are too many appeals and too many degrees of appeal. Thus, to give an example, at present a case of \$100 is taken out before the Superior Court. This case goes into review. Let us say that the judgment is reversed; the losing party can take the case into appeal. Matters are such that in the smallest case, in a case of \$100, the costs, when there are no witnesses, amount to \$600, and may amount to \$800, and all this when the amount at issue is only \$100. I say that we must protect the suitors against themselves. The ratopayers of the Province of Quebec must be protected against the perhaps too strongly developed desire which animates them to plead and plead until their means are exhausted. That is why I propose to reduce the number of appeals and the number of degrees of appeal. Now, there is another drawback arising from the too great number of appeals. It is what has happened in Montreal, where the Court of Appeals is so encumbered that if a case is inscribed to-day for hearing it cannot be heard for two years. The result of this is that the dishonest suitor is protected when he wishes to plead and to carry the case into appeal. If I am well informed, cases are taken into appeal—a number of cases are taken before the Court of Queen's Bench—merely to obtain delay, to avoid paying just debts which are due. The Court of Appeal for the District Court would be the Court of Review, consisting of three judges of the Superior Court as at present. These cases would therefore be taken into appeal before the Court of Review, which would be a court entirely distinct from and independent of the District Court.

[To be continued.]