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CURRENT TOPICS AND CASES.

Acting Chief Justice Tait, in his reply to the address of congratulation presented to him by the Montreal Bar, made some important observations on the administration of justice in this Province. It is obvious that since the present system of districts was introduced the vastly increased facilities of travel have removed most of the old objections to centralization. If such facilities had existed formerly the judicial districts might have been very differently arranged. There is at present a great waste of judicial force somewhere, there being thirty-six superior judges in this province, while all England, with a population of thirty millions, has only twenty-eight. Ireland comes nearer to Quebec in judicial numbers, there being seventeen superior judges to a population of about five millions. Of course it is not forgotten that our Superior Court judges also perform work which is done in England by a subordinate class. But after every deduction is made the discrepancy is marked. The suggestions put forward by the learned Acting Chief Justice deserve to be well weighed. He has frankly given the Bar and the public the benefit of his views on a subject of which he is peculiarly qualified to judge. If the suggestions do not bear fruit in desirable amendments to our judicial system the responsibility will not rest with him.