

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): The province did it.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Yes. There was the king's bench, consisting of four judges who did circuit work; there was the chancery division, consisting of the chief justice and two associate justices; the chancery judges formed the appeal division; and in case of an appeal from one of their decisions, the chief justice of the king's bench was called in. Owing to the decline in litigation, the number of appeals has decreased remarkably—there is no doubt about that—and the judges of the chancery division have very little work to do, so little that one of them has been lent to the government in connection with one of the taxation measures passed last year. I am sure he is at the present time doing useful work there.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): It is one of the appeal courts.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): He is a member of the chancery division and the appeal court. With regard to the king's bench division, the chief justice of that division has not heard a case for three years, and he has now resigned. Mr. Justice Le Blanc has in recent years been doing all the work under the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, with the result that there have been only two king's bench judges active in the trial of cases; and until very recently I know they were very busy, and in arrears. The whole position in New Brunswick is top-heavy and ought to be rearranged. I quite realize that this is a matter entirely for the province. If they were to create new positions in New Brunswick they would expect this government to make the appointments and pay the salaries of those appointed. I think negotiations ought to be entered into with the government of New Brunswick to effect some permanent savings there, because the judges on the court of appeal do not have enough to do; make no mistake about that. As a matter of fact, at the last session of that court, opened the other day, there was just one case on the docket. Imagine paying three judges gross salaries of \$28,000 a year with a term of the court having just one case! The situation is ridiculous. We are top-heavy.

I think the same thing is in a measure true of the county court bench. There are too many county court judges, six in that little province, drawing \$5,000 a year salary and travelling expenses. Here is a case where there could be a substantial saving. I do not suggest that the government should ask the province of New Brunswick to pass legislation eliminating any of the judges now

living; but as these men die or are pensioned off, having arrived at the age of seventy-five, the government might very well reduce the number. That would not be pleasing to some of the boys I know, I do not care what political complexion they are, but it would be a good thing for the taxpayers of Canada. What is true of New Brunswick I fancy is true, perhaps in a lesser degree, of certain other provinces.

I am looking over these estimates and, if I am correct, there are sixty-five county court judges in Ontario. Is that correct?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I wonder.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): It seems an extraordinary number. Members of the bar from that province may say that some of those county court judges are exceedingly busy. There is no doubt of that, but I suggest that some of them have very little to do. In the interest of national economy in war time, I suggest to the minister that he take this matter up, at least with the province of New Brunswick.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I have no doubt the remarks of my hon. friend will be heard—

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): In New Brunswick.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): —in New Brunswick.

Mr. CHURCH: How many admiralty judges are there at present in Ontario?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Only one.

Mr. CHURCH: What title have they? In the past the admiralty judge in Ontario was a member of the high court of justice, and afterwards a county court judge was appointed. What title has he?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Judge in admiralty. I do not know whether he should be called "Mr. Justice." I have no objection, as far as I am concerned.

Mr. CHURCH: We had an admiral in this high court of parliament; he has gone to another place now.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Is my hon. friend suggesting that we should give him an increase in salary?

Mr. CHURCH: I am wondering whether a lawyer appointed judge in admiralty is to be addressed as Mr. Justice. The admiralty court is a federal court. Supreme court judges have