

too often agreed to pass legislation in favour of privileged classes. I consider this legislation is in favour of a privileged class, and I agree with my hon. friend from West Lambton (Mr. Pardee) that the people of Ontario will not support it.

Mr. HOCKEN: I would point out to my hon. friend that we have a People's party in this House already on this side—a people's party that was elected by an enormous majority in 1917. So my hon. friend need not predict something that has already happened.

I think a pretty good case has been made out for the readjustment of the pension system for the County Court judges. Beyond that, I do not agree with my hon. friend from West Elgin. On the face of it, the proposition to confine the increase to county judges in districts and counties with cities of a population of 40,000, looks pretty reasonable, but if we examine it we shall find the grounds are not quite as strong as they appear at first sight. If we have too many judges in this country and some are not employed more than half their time, that is the fault of this Government.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The fault of the Provincial Government.

Mr. HOCKEN: Why should not this Government co-operate with the Provincial Government and group certain counties for judicial purposes? Some counties have already been grouped. Why should we not group other counties? If this Government made representations to a Provincial Government that they had laws upon their statute book that resulted in a waste of public money, I do not think any Provincial Government would resist an appeal from this Government for the reduction of judges to the number actually required. In some cases, as my hon. friend from Prescott says, there are two men employed where there is not enough work for one.

On the other hand, there are counties where it takes a judge practically every day of the year to perform the duties of his office. That is a disparity that is not the fault of the county judge; it is the fault of the existing legislation. I have been making some inquiries and I find that the amount that is given by the province to judges for Surrogate fees and that kind of thing is over \$1,000. That includes the revision of assessments and voters' lists, and in our city that is an important matter involving a great deal of work, the hearing of appeals under the Ditches and Water Courses Act, school arbitrations, and many

[Mr. Proulx.]

other duties prescribed by statute, in the province of Ontario at all events. One county judge, now passed away, I believe, estimated that there were 167 different duties imposed on county judges by the Statutes of Ontario. Some of these, I presume, would be of a very minor character, or the judges could not perform their work at all. The revision of assessments, the revision of voters' lists, the hearing of Ditches and Water Courses appeals, school arbitrations and that kind of thing, in addition to their other duties, keep the judges in most of the counties fully employed, if they perform their duties properly.

Our Superior Court judges have a vacation of three months. Not many of the county judges have a vacation of that length. There are many counties in Ontario where it would be impossible to get the work done if the judge took a three months' holiday. In the city of Toronto there are three county judges. They have opportunities of adding to their incomes which are not within the reach of the average judge. They sit on arbitrations of various kinds and on boards of conciliation. One of them sits on the Police Commission, which adds \$1,000 or more to his salary. So the judges in the big centres have opportunities of adding to their incomes which are not within the reach of other judges. I think the amendment proposed by the Minister of Justice striking out the limitation regarding 40,000 population should be adopted. I think we should first, eliminate, as we have arranged to do and as will be done in process of time, all the junior county judges, except in the big centres. Next, we should group the counties, so as not to have two judges sitting for the county of Prescott, for instance, if there is not enough work to keep one judge employed.

Mr. CROTHERS: Half the counties of Ontario are in the same position.

Mr. ARCHAMBAULT: There are no lawyers in Prescott.

Mr. HOCKEN: If half the counties in Ontario are in the same position, that strengthens my argument. We should not put these men on a salary which is inadequate, simply because we have created a lot of sinecures all over the country. What we should do is to fix the boundaries of the districts in such a way that the judges will have enough work to do. The county judge in a county town is one of the leaders in his town. I venture to say that nothing is started in the way of a subscription where the county judge is not approached