

a judge in Saskatchewan for some position, all we have to do now is to increase the size of the court of appeal. By increasing the numbers, you have a judge available; then you put him into circulation in some other position. It is too dangerous a precedent, and I join with the hon. member for Stanstead in the stand he has taken. He is president of the Canadian Bar Association, and his views merit the consideration of the members of the house and the people of the country as a whole. All of us have a responsibility to preserve the integrity and the independence of the judiciary. Things like this cannot but have a deleterious effect on public opinion and its regard for that integrity.

Mr. POULIOT: I have seldom heard the hon. member for Lake Centre speak with such eloquence about the judiciary of this country. He spoke in moving accents when he referred to justice and the administration of justice. As one who was admitted to the bar a long time before the hon. member was, and one who will cease to practise a long time before he will, I was deeply interested. For me in my seat here it is refreshing to hear the hon. gentleman. He had the accents of d'Aguesseau, the great French jurist, in addressing the opening of the courts in France. Addresses such as these show great culture, and cannot do otherwise than create a profound impression on those who have the privilege of listening to them. I would not start a competition of the kind, because I admit at once that I would be beaten. Eloquence is not a gift that I possess; I have none.

Mr. KNOWLES: The hon. member is too modest.

Mr. POULIOT: But when I think of the matter that is now before the committee, I wonder if it is the bench, or the freight rates, or both together, that are the cause of this concern. I have here a list of the judges who are superannuated. The first of them is a man who has acquired a great reputation as a jurist. I refer to Sir Lyman Duff. Would my hon. friend accept Sir Lyman Duff as head of the transport board if he agreed to go there? He would protest with regard to him just the same as he did before with regard to an investigation that was carried on by Sir Lyman Duff. Then there is Mr. Justice Hyndman, for whom I have profound respect and admiration. He is a superannuated judge. When I spoke to the Minister of Justice about retiring judges who were mentally and physically fit, he shrugged his shoulders. But on the list there is someone else who is able, and whose defence I will take at once. I refer to Colonel Cross, the chairman of the

board of transport commissioners. Because the ruling of the board has not been satisfactory to some members, shall we change the whole board? Shall we bring in a judge? That matter gave to the hon. member for Lake Centre an opportunity to cast some mild aspersions on Mr. Justice Davis, the ambassador to China. He is a man I know well, and he does a very good service. I wonder how many eminent Canadians would agree to leave their country for China in the present circumstances, and to carry a prefabricated house with them. It is worse than the bed the paralytic carried on his back. Would any hon. member carry a prefabricated house to China?

Mr. KNOWLES: And a load of coal as well.

Mr. POULIOT: Yes. The ambassador to China is a man who has imposed great sacrifices upon himself in order to serve his country.

Mr. HACKETT: Is the hon. member quite sure that the hon. member for Lake Centre said anything detrimental to Mr. Justice Davis? I listened with great care, and I do not recall that he said anything critical of Mr. Justice Davis.

Mr. POULIOT: I did not say detrimental; I did not use that expression. I said "mild aspersions". I know what I say, and the hon. member for Stanstead will be better off if he listens to me as closely as he listens to his colleague. He will learn much more by listening to me than he will by listening to the hon. member for Lake Centre.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): I ask the hon. member whether he does not regard the words "mild aspersions" as being in some sense critical?

Mr. POULIOT: I am sure the hon. member for Lake Centre had nothing critical in his mind when he cast the mild aspersions. To the pure all is pure.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Is that a personal testimonial by my hon. friend?

Mr. POULIOT: It is a testimonial to my hon. friend; it is a tribute to him. I tell the hon. member for Stanstead, who is a likeable gentleman and a great Canadian; I tell the hon. member for Lake Centre, who is a well-gifted Canadian for whom I have great personal admiration, although I do not agree with one iota of his policy—I ask them what they would like to have done by the transport board with regard to freight rates. Are they satisfied with the ruling that has been given