

the chef-lieu; in the latter the judge has under his charge the district of Pontiac. In every other district a judge can leave Montreal in the morning and reach the chef-lieu in time to open the Superior Court. We have judges who render us assistance who leave their districts in the morning and return to their homes the same afternoon. I think that all of them except those serving in the two districts which I have named, might with great benefit to the administration of justice reside in Montreal and the work be done from the city under the direction of the Chief Justice. Nothing but good could result from the close association and conference between the judges such a state of things would bring about, and amongst other benefits uniformity of practice would be established, deliberation in review cases would be facilitated, and above all we would have the constant assistance of these judges in the work here where it is much required, and the result would be a much fairer distribution of labor. Moreover, I believe that such a change instead of retarding the work in the country districts would give it a fresh impetus. I should be glad indeed if, as an experiment, a few, at any rate, of these outside judges who live nearest to Montreal could be brought here to reside, and the work of their districts be attended to in the way I have suggested.

It is true that there are some thirty Circuit Courts apart from those at the chefs-lieu. I think, however, that it would be quite possible to have these satisfactorily attended to by the Superior Court judges from Montreal if necessary, but I am strongly of opinion that they should be relieved from sitting in the Circuit Court in the country parts as they have been relieved from doing in this city. In all other provinces except Manitoba, the judges of the superior Courts are not called upon to administer justice in the inferior Courts. As the law now stands, the Circuit Court at the chef-lieu of each district has only jurisdiction in cases under one hundred dollars, while in the counties it has jurisdiction up to two hundred dollars. The proportion of cases between one hundred and two hundred dollars cannot be very large, and I think that no injustice could result from reducing the jurisdiction of the county Courts to cases under \$100, and increasing the jurisdiction of the district magistrates so as to enable them to take all the work of the Circuit Court. If it is not desirable to alter the jurisdiction of the court, then the jurisdiction of the district magistrates might be enlarged so as to cover all cases therein subject to the review that now exists.