

come, and the court regularly gave during each term an opportunity for hearing to every case on the docket at the beginning of that term, it is difficult to say precisely, because the continuance of of many cases and the special arrangement of others render the docket record obscure; but in the seventies there were some terms at which it was done. The October term of 1870 opened with a docket of one hundred and fourteen cases, and the court heard the last of those in the following February. In the eighties it was the regular practice to do this, and the court did not stop with cases filed before the beginning of the term; at the opening of the April term, 1885, there were eighty-eight cases on the docket, and the court heard those up to number 91 before adjournment. As cases came in they were added and numbered as of the current term. In 1886,⁵ a third term of court, beginning on the second Monday in January, was added, but this did not add to the time which the court had been devoting to its work; apparently it merely made another division of the time—crowding the October term now.

After the middle of the eighteen eighties, then, the court dockets were smaller and easily disposed of in a year. In 1890 the highest number of cases at the opening of a term was sixty-nine; in 1895, sixty-two; in 1900, ninety-six; in 1905, ninety-five; in 1910, eighty-eight. Since 1915 the number has increased, on the average, the October term of each year usually containing considerably over a hundred cases, and the total of each year being in the neighborhood of two hundred and twenty-five.

5. Act 1886, Chap. 185.