

of a city for the purpose of laying the wires used in their business, without being obliged to obtain the permission of the city. Apparently the law did not give the court any alternative; but the fact that such powers can be sought and obtained by private individuals or private companies without instantly attracting the attention of the city government, and exciting the most earnest and active opposition, is a significant illustration of the lamentable deficiencies of our system of municipal administration.

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The Canadian Bar Association was organized successfully at the meetings held at Montreal on September 15th and 16th, when a constitution was adopted, and over a hundred members were enrolled. Nova Scotia was well represented, but the attendance from the other provinces, and especially from Ontario, was noticeably weak. This apparent lack of interest may probably be ascribed in part to some rather injudicious observations reported to have been made at a meeting held at Halifax, which obtained wide circulation in the press. "Legal education," it was remarked by one speaker, "was in a most unsatisfactory condition; and in all the provinces below the standard in Nova Scotia. It was not much use trying to raise the standard in Nova Scotia with the low averages about us of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Ontario!" This was a style of address hardly calculated to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of the Provinces whose benighted condition was described as being so pitiable. There was also a suspicion in some quarters that the association was formed to promote the assimilation of the law throughout the Dominion. Of course this notion was unfounded, though it is probable that suggestions may be made by the association from time to time for the adoption of such modifications as may commend themselves after full inquiry and discussion; but it will lie with the legislatures of the provinces to accept or reject such sug-