

legislation relating to Bills and Notes, Banks, Insurance, Railways, Patents, Companies, and Crimes.

At a preliminary meeting of a number of the members of the Bars of all the Provinces of Canada held at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, in February last, I had the honour of seconding the motion made by Mr. J. E. Martin, K.C., Batonnier of the Montreal Bar, "That . . . it is desirable to form a Canadian Bar Association."

At the inaugural meeting held in Ottawa on the 31st March I proposed, on behalf of the Ontario Bar Association, seconded by Batonnier Martin of Montreal, the election of Sir James Aikins, K.C., M.P., as President of the Canadian Bar Association. Our late Honourary President, Mr. James Bicknell, K.C., became First Vice-President for Ontario, Mr. E. F. B. Johnston, K.C., being subsequently elected to that office on the demise of Mr. Bicknell. Already Sir James Aikins has started in, with his characteristic industry and energy, to inaugurate a new era in law and procedure in Canada. The *Manitoba Free Press* of 22nd December devotes three columns to the report of the Banquet at the Royal Alexandra Hotel under the auspices of the Canadian Credit Men's Trust Association, very largely attended, at which Sir James Aikins presented the case for standardizing laws affecting commercial and financial transactions in the various Provinces. During this annual meeting I would like to see a resolution carried urging the Ontario Government to co-operate with the other Provinces by making an appropriation to defray the expenses of a special committee of the Canadian Bar Association to grapple with this project.

The most notable event of the year in the narrower field of our own Province is undoubtedly the adoption by the Legislature of Ontario of the Workmen's Compensation Act as prepared by Chief Justice Meredith. As Sir William pointed out in his splendid address at our last annual meeting, this measure eliminates a large class of damage actions, and involves, therefore, some sacrifice of income on the part of those members of our profession who apply themselves to the work of the Courts. Nevertheless, we greet the legislation with approbation, and rejoice with the