

to property and civil rights in the other province of Canada (with the concurrence of their respective legislatures) on its Quebec from the enumeration of provinces affected by this section.

No wonder, then, that the Bar of this province should look with suspicion upon any project which may see to have for its aim the submergence of the civil code in the rising tide of the common law around its borders.

Let me at once dispel all such apprehensions by saying that the movement in favour of uniformity which took its rise in the great Republic to the south of us does not contemplate any constitutional changes or the impairment of provincial autonomy. Mr. Terry, the president of the Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, in his admirable address delivered at Washington in October last, said:—

“We are not advocating centralization of Government. We are not advising the obliteration of states lines. On the contrary, we would depreciate the former and warn against the latter. Our faith in the dual sovereignty, and the nice checks and balances of our system of government has grown in these latter days, as the assaults upon it from both friends and foes have disclosed at once their own futility and the inherent soundness of the object of their attack.”

And so in our own case no one to-day advocates the establishment of legislative union, which some of the Fathers of Confederation would have preferred to the present division of legislative powers. Besides, legislative union does not necessarily mean uniformity of laws. You have a familiar example in the case of the British Parliament which preserves the common law for the English and the civil law for the Scots. We ourselves tried the experiment from 1841 to 1867 when we had a common parliament for Upper and Lower Canada which dealt out English law to one province and French law to the other. Even the Autocrat of all the Russias maintains German law in the Baltic provinces, French law in Russian Poland and Swedish law in Finland. Nor does the project which is submitted to