

the end and the essence of the brotherhood of man. It has come to pass, or is rapidly coming to pass, that the law suffocates individuality, instead of supplying it with the refreshing air of freedom. Our governments, under the guise of the exercise of the police power, have obtruded too far into the realm of personal privilege. It is for us, as lawyers, to apply the remedy, and to unravel the red tape of legal procedure, and to check the flood of useless legislation.

May I mention to you, as a part of our effort to clarify the law and make it universal, the accomplishments of our Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. This body, to which I have the distinguished honour of belonging, is an offspring of the American Bar Association. For twenty-five years it has pursued its work to unify the laws of the various states of the United States on subjects of interstate concern—calmly, deliberately, patiently, but, withal, enthusiastically and without cessation.

Considering the temperament of state legislatures, the pressure that is brought to bear upon them for the enactment of legislation purely local, the engrossing special concerns which drive legislators during their session and the natural disinclination on their part to put aside matters of their own individual and their own state interest for the consideration of more general, even though equally, if not more important, matters which concern all the states taken collectively, it is little less than amazing that the acts proposed by the Conference as uniform acts for all the states should have met so cordial and ready a reception by the various state legislatures.

The Negotiable Instruments Act has been adopted by 46 states, territories and federal districts and possessions; the Warehouse Receipts Act has been approved and has become the law of 30 states, territories and federal districts and possessions; the Bills of Lading Act is now the law in 11 states, territories, and federal districts and possessions; the Sales of Goods Act in 11 states, territories, federal districts and possessions; the Certificates of Stock Act in 9 states, territories and federal districts and possessions; the Divorce Act in 3 states; the Family Deser-