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## *THE LAW AND THE BLUDGEON.*

It must be conceded that behind all laws passed in a civilized state stands the policeman with his baton, and behind him again the soldier with his sword, his gun, and all the paraphernalia of war. But if for the enforcement of every law which is passed in a civilized community the policeman and the soldier had to be resorted to, society would be in a chronic state of commotion, and peace and good order would be banished from the land.

For the due enforcement of the law it is obvious there must be a coercive power existing somewhere; and anarchy would prevail unless the coercive powers were reasonably effective. But the wise legislator will so frame his laws that they be in the main generally acceptable to the community which is to be affected by them. Laws which do not command the general assent of the community are always extremely difficult of enforcement; and to make a law and not enforce it is to offer a premium to lawlessness, and more or less to bring all law into contempt.

It ought to be needless to say that when great political changes are to be effected in the status of any large body of people, the first thing to be done is to persuade by argument those who are intended to be affected that what is proposed to be done is really for their benefit.

When, for instance, the Confederation of the British possessions in North America was contemplated, great pains were previously taken to convince the people of the various provinces that the measure was one that would redound to their advantage. Had an opposite course been taken and had the people or any considerable part of them been coerced into the project it is very doubtful whether the Dominion of Canada would have prospered as it has done. People may be obstinate, short sighted,