

most responsible positions in the service of their country. That such is the moving spirit and objective point of this Association is matter for congratulation, and if this body does no more than uphold and add to the honour of the Profession, it will serve a great and noble purpose.

I am not presenting this address with the object of encouraging undue criticism, or on the ground that I am any better than my fellow practitioners. Rather, I am submitting some views which may aid your worthy Association in its development, and, whilst I am conscious that much of what I have said is common knowledge, my remarks have at least the merit of being the result of considerable experience at the Bar, and the expression of a line of thought absolutely independent.

UNIFORMITY OF LAWS IN CANADA.

By EUGENE LAFLEUR, K.C.

In the minds of many Quebec lawyers the mere title of my subject will arouse antagonism and alarm. In 1663 Louis XIV. cancelled the charter of the One Hundred Associates and introduced into this country the laws of his realm, and from that date until the present time the civil laws of France have been in force, except during the brief interval between Governor Murray's proclamation in 1763 and the Quebec Act of 1774. The last mentioned statute recognized that the provisions of the proclamation, including the introduction of the laws of England into the colony, were inapplicable to the state and circumstances of the province, whose inhabitants had enjoyed a system of laws by which their persons and property had been protected, governed and ordered for a long series of years from the first establishment of the province, and in consequence restored the old laws of Canada. Throughout all the subsequent constitutional changes this system has been maintained, and section 94 of the Confederation Act of 1867 in providing that the Parliament of Canada may make provision for the uniformity of laws relative