

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY HON. SIR JAMES AIKINS,
K.C., LL.B.

The Association was incorporated as you wished by an Act of Parliament assented to on the 15th of April last. Its objects, with one or two additions, are the same as they were when the Association was first formed. Its powers are ample. Its form of management and administration flexible. Flexible because it can be made and varied as the Association desires by by-laws and rules. Meanwhile, the constitution, by-laws and rules of the incorporated Association continue until altered or repealed at an annual or general meeting of the Association.

The Act provides that the Association may establish a Council with executive power and may determine the method of election or appointment or selection thereof, define the constitution, powers, duties, quorum and term of office of such Council and of the officers, committees and local executives and branches. While the previous method of appointing the Council and the officers at the annual meeting on the nomination of the provincial members then present may be convenient, it is very doubtful if it places upon the Council the most enthusiastic, capable and interested members of the Association. It has been suggested that the members of the Association who are of a provincial bar should be empowered prior to the annual meeting either to elect or nominate the representatives from that Province for the council by such method as those members may think proper.

Provincial Sections and Executives

It is further suggested; that the members of the Association in each province should be regarded as a section or unit of the Association to further and promote its purposes to consider between annual meetings any matters of general interest to the whole bar of Canada and make recommendations to the Association; also that the officers and members of the Council living in that province should form the sectional executive acting under the general council,