

Bench and Bar

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The third annual meeting of this Association will be held in the City of Winnipeg on the 29th, 30th, and 31st days of August next. The Executive are making arrangements to facilitate transportation, preparing of programme of proceedings, etc. The annual address will be delivered by the Hon. Hampton L. Carson of Philadelphia. Other leaders of the Bar from the United States will also be present.

Committees are also working on the following important subjects: Judicial appointments: Judges as arbitrators and commissioners: Uniform legal procedure: Marriage and divorce: Agency commissions: Delays in the administration of justice and in the publication of statutes: Uniform statutes are in course of preparation for company law, insurance, conditional sales, bulk sales and the enforcement of foreign judgments, while succession duties and insolvency are also receiving attention. As upholding the honour and dignity of the profession, legal education and professional ethics are also under consideration.

Whilst we are glad to know that the Association is dealing with these matters in view of amendments, we would again seek to emphasize the crying need there is for making an advance in the direction indicated by section 94 of the British North America Act; and as far as possible to include the Province of Quebec. There should be complete and absolute uniformity in the subjects above referred to as also in the law affecting devolution of estates and intestacy: Limitation of actions: Assignments and preferences and other branches of mercantile law. If Canada is ever to be a homogeneous nation, uniformity of laws and procedure must exist. The tendency at present is for the various Provinces to drift apart in this regard rather than to get together. This is all wrong, and none can be more helpful in discussing this most difficult subject than the legal profession. Those who look for a full development of the resources of this country and the requirements of the trade and business of the Dominion along national lines are beginning to think seriously of this matter. The time of action is not appropriate at this moment, but it must come in due course, and the sooner the better.