

over the settlement of their difficulty to the forces of the human mind, and justice will be done in a greater degree than if the matter was left to the hazard of war or the unforeseen result of a battle.

And in passing allow me here to recall the fact that our Canadian bar won for itself, in the Behring Sea arbitration, a distinction and fame of which we may all well be proud. Among those who took part in that arbitration there were to be found members of our Canadian Bar Association, just as among those who are now engaged in bringing this matter to a final and friendly settlement, are also to be found members of our association.

The members of the bar are, moreover, called upon to play another important role in society. Politics seem to have for them an irresistible attraction. In the Legislature of the provinces and in the Federal Parliament of Canada it is, especially, lawyers who are to be seen in the first rank, and they are in their place. It is in order that those who are called upon to enact laws should be exercised beforehand in the study of law, and the more their mind and intelligence will have been formed by this study the better prepared they will be to fill the role of legislators.

Our association will afford the opportunity of becoming a public man of a more universal knowledge, and thereby fitting himself for the fulfilment of the weighty and responsible duties which are assigned to him by the confidence of his fellow citizens. Indeed, it is not to be expected that a lawyer who is in contact exclusively with the confreres of his own bar should become acquainted with the laws of the other provinces, or that he should scrutinize their statutes; he has neither the occasion nor the need to do so.

This work, which a lawyer would not undertake alone, he will do in our association, where committees are especially charged with studying the laws of the different provinces, so as to have the association as a whole benefit by the fruit of these labors. Our annual meeting will afford us a field where we will be able to reap, in a short time, an abundant harvest of knowledge that will be useful to all, and useful in the highest degree to the lawyer who is called upon to take part in the councils of the nation.

I have already said that the object of our association is to make our bar a still greater bar. Is that not, indeed, the result of our meeting, when the most distinguished members of our profession participate in its proceedings? The junior bar will find therein a subject of rivalry and good example to follow. The more numerous these meetings the greater the opportunity and incentive for them to put forth their best efforts and labors to secure a prominent position in their profession.

The horizon of the bar has therefore widened very much. It is only in our century, we may say, as least in certain countries, that they have attained this higher plane; but it is worthy of remark, as far as our own country is concerned, that there has been no important work, no remarkable progress accomplished without the lawyers taking an eminent part in them. And if we are allowed to assemble here, as representatives of the different bars of Canada, we are compelled to admit that the project of the Canadian confederation was, in a large measure, conceived and executed by the lawyers of the various provinces.

Even quite recently Canada has figured largely on the scene of Europe through the personality of her Prime Minister. If Canada during the historic events of the past few months has occupied the first place among the colonies of the British empire, and also in the mind, not only of the British, but foreign statesmen, to whom can be attributed the honor and glory of her position if not to our distinguished confrere, the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier? I make this statement knowing and feeling full well that even his political opponents would not pardon me if I were to overlook Mr. Laurier's name, when I am speaking of the mission accomplished by members of the Canadian bar for the advantage of our country. (Applause.)

If the bar has filled an important role in our country, if on another conti-