

ago, were stimulated with the desire to promote the best interests of the bench and bar and to perpetuate their worthiest traditions.

At the time this journal was founded the need of a legal periodical was greatly felt. There was no organ of the profession, nor any medium of communication between its members. It was not a commercial enterprise, nor was it required as an adjunct to any law publisher's business, as has since been the case with many legal periodicals on this continent, and it has always been free to express its opinions on any subject regardless of consequences. It has always sought to promote sound and safe law reform, and to be the repository and exponent of the views of the legal profession of the Dominion, and devoted to their best interests.

In our first number it was stated that the journal would be "opposed to the interest of no class; devoted exclusively to legal subjects;" and that "entering on a widely extended field for useful operations and at a heavy and continuous outlay, we looked for generous support." Party politics moreover, as announced in the prospectus, were to have no part in our programme, and they have been sedulously avoided.

The outlay was for very many years both "heavy and continuous," the journal being a source of expense and not of profit. Had the work not been a labour of love it would have ceased long ago. Sparing neither labour nor money, we have kept our course through many discouragements and difficulties along the lines originally laid down. Our reward has been the recognition of our usefulness during nearly half a century; and the support that was claimed has been heartily given and is gladly acknowledged. It will be our pleasure in the future, as in the past, to uphold our reputation as a first-class legal journal; a reputation which we have reason to know, from those most competent to judge, is second to none on the continent.

We shall now proceed to speak with some little detail of the more personal side of our origin and history. The person who first conceived the idea that the time had come for the establishment of a legal journal was the then judge of the County Court of the County of Simcoe, now the Honourable James Robert Gowan, C.M.G., and a Senator of Canada. His many and great services in matters connected with the administration of justice are part of the history of this country.