

We began the year 1914 with an ambitious programme, much of which we have had the satisfaction of seeing accomplished. The most notable achievement to which this Association lent its active support was the formation of the Canadian Bar Association. It will be recalled that by resolutions of this Association passed at several successive annual meetings, the desirability of this project was affirmed—not, indeed, without much debate and some misgivings even on the part of those who favoured a National Association. The Manitoba Bar Association took it up with the vigor that characterizes the West, and with Sir James Aikens, K.C., M.P., as sponsor, decision overcame hesitation, and more or less nebulous discussion ended in organization. It is expected that the first anniversary of the formation of the Canadian Bar Association will be celebrated in Montreal in March, and plans will then be formulated for accomplishing the objects thereof as set forth in the constitution, *viz.*:—

“Its object shall be to advance the science of jurisprudence, promote the administration of justice and uniformity of legislation throughout Canada so far as consistent with the preservation of the basic systems of law in the respective Provinces, uphold the honour of the profession of law, and encourage cordial intercourse among the members of the Canadian Bar.”

Now, I can conceive of nothing better calculated to promote that unity among the Provinces which is essential to a strong national life than uniformity of legislation. Our forefathers were evidently of that opinion when the Dominion of Canada was formed. Section 94 of the British North America Act, 1867—the Constitution of Canada—reads as follows:—

“Notwithstanding anything in this Act, the Parliament of Canada may make Provision for the Uniformity of all or any of the Laws relative to Property and Civil Rights in Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and of the Procedure of all or any of the Courts in those Three Provinces and from and after the passing of any Act in that Behalf the Power of the Parliament to make Laws in relation to any