

but there is also a force at work the trend of which is toward greater similarity in that jurisprudence which is under provincial jurisdiction. That force is the insistent demand and urgent need of some codification of the local laws in the province where the common law systems prevails. The common law proper is a law library which commences with the year books and ends with the last law reports. If in this library are included the Scotch and Irish reports, our provincial reports and those of the United States to which we sometimes refer, we shall not be far wrong in saying there are seven thousand volumes of reported decisions. Sir Frederick Pollock says that down to 1895 there were over eighteen hundred volumes of English reports alone to which a lawyer is likely to refer. These have increased in twenty years. They contain, I am told, at least one hundred thousand decisions which are constantly being added to. Of Canadian reports there are eight hundred and fifty volumes, and these too are receiving yearly additions. The Canadian lawyer also has to consult the revised or consolidated statutes of the Dominion and of the provinces, and all Acts passed since such consolidation and revision. I find that in 1913 and 1914 the following numbers of public Acts were passed in Canada:—

Parliament of Canada, 116; of Alberta, 50; of British Columbia, 166; of Manitoba, 224; of Ontario, 144; of Quebec, 125 (in 1912 and 1914 no statutes 1913); of New Brunswick, 91; of Nova Scotia, 125; of Prince Edward Island, 43; of Saskatchewan, 67; of Yukon, 27; making a total of 1,178.

Our public Acts are frequently ill-drawn and fragmentary, containing unnecessary, meteoric and disturbing provisions. So the originating member, to the delight of his admiring electors, keeps adding "line upon line, line upon a line, here a little and there a little."

The legal adviser has also to consult hundreds of rules of court made under legislative authority and having the force of statutes.

The publication of the reports has, in too many instances,