

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND.

Meeting at Dalhousie Library, 11 a.m.

1. Discussion on uniformity in registration and indexing of titles to land.
2. General business.
3. Afternoon, at 3 o'clock, meeting at Studley quoit grounds, as guests of Studley Quoit Club.

After the reading of the minutes and the Treasurer's report, the President delivered his annual address as follows :

GENTLEMEN,—This is the first time, since its foundation, that the Canadian Bar Association meets in regular convention, and its history is brief.

During the course of the Summer of 1896 the members of the association gathered together in the city of Montreal for the purpose of discussing the project and laying the foundations of our society. Representatives came from every part of Canada, and the bars of every province were, I may be allowed to say, brilliantly represented. The idea of forming one grand association of the members of all the bars in Canada was not a new one. For several years this idea had taken hold in the minds of a large number, but, until then, circumstances had not arisen to bring about the accomplishment of the project.

The bar of the United States had just met in Saratoga. The importance of the labors of their convention, the weighty questions which were then discussed, while adding new lustre to the American bar, attracted public attention, not only on this continent, but also in the countries of Europe. The bar on that occasion had fully demonstrated its power and its worth. England did not disdain to be represented at that meeting by a man who has no superior in the ranks of the English bar, the distinguished lawyer, and now an eminent Judge, Lord Russell.

The renown of that meeting, and the example given, there can be no doubt, contributed a good deal to determine the initiative taken by the leading lawyers of Canada of inviting the members of all the bars to a general convention in Montreal.

The idea of forming our association was not, however, carried out without meeting obstacles on the part of certain lawyers. A fear existed in the minds of some of the lawyers of the Quebec bar that our association would ultimately undertake to impose uniformity of legislation on the people of Canada, and that the old French laws, to which the bar and the people of the province of Quebec are so profoundly attached, would be wiped out. Our friends of Quebec did not conceal their fears. The result was that our first convention was the witness of a long and animated discussion on the subject. This discussion, however, clearly proved that there was no intention anywhere to abolish our laws, and that, in any case, if our association desired to do so, it would be unable to succeed.

The question once settled, the members of the bar joined the movement, and applauded the creation of our association. To-day from one end of Canada to the other, the bar fully recognizes the need of such an association, and finds in its object nothing but that is praiseworthy ; nothing but that deserves the approbation and the encouragement of all.

What is, indeed, the object of our association? It is to make of our bar a bar still greater. It is to create among all its members, whose minds have been given to the same studies, whose tastes are similar, whose education has been directed on the same lines, whose intellectual culture has brought together in the same world of ideas, it is, I repeat, to create between them, instead of purely professional relations, strong bonds of warm friendship. Our aim, then, can be resumed in one thought, which is altogether in the interest of civil society, and of agreeable social relations.

Our society has not only received the approbation of the militant portion