

Another matter which is bringing the practice of the law into disrepute is caused by the strenuous effort of many Crown Prosecutors to obtain a conviction. Listening to some of the cases tried in our own courts, one would be forced to the conclusion that the fee and the oratorical fame of the Crown counsel were on trial and not the accused. Here again we find the value of the impersonal. I have always believed that the Crown officer has no brief to win, and no cause to lose. He is appointed to represent the fountain of justice, not to further the too often unscrupulous work of ambitious detectives. To my mind, incapacity along fair lines, and a consequent acquittal, are infinitely preferable to the conviction obtained by the counsel, whose conduct is governed by the dominance of one objective point—success. The honour of our Profession must depend on the exercise of the highest principles of fair play, and the true administration of that part of law which falls to the lot of the practising lawyer.

There are many other matters one would like to discuss regarding the assets of professional honour. What I have mentioned as examples to illustrate some evils are, I am glad to say, not the governing factors of the average lawyer's conduct. The Bar of Canada undoubtedly stands high in the estimation of our people, and of the citizens of the neighbouring Republic. Most of our solicitors in Canada are working along lines of probity and professional honour, and the majority of our leading counsel and advocates are actuated by feelings and motives that go to build up a great reputation. They are trusted and worthy of trust. The temptations in their calling are very great, and I have often been surprised that so few fail in the resistance. We must expect some failures. Was it not Sir Walter Scott who said that the legal profession was like a great chimney through which the ashes and soot and bad feelings of humanity passed, and that it would be marvellous if some of the soot did not stick in its passage.

If morality is the true basis of law, every effort should be made in laying the foundation to see that the craftsmen are