

The machinery which works our national (if I may so style our central government) as well as our provincial and local systems of government, is obviously of a complex character, requiring a large number of persons for administrative, judicial and municipal purposes. To those officials and legislators we must add the relatively small number of learned men who are called upon to occupy the bench, and administer the law which, with the exception of the fundamental law or constitution governing the Dominion and its various sections, is amended from time to time by the parliament and the legislatures. If we add to this official and judicial *personnel* the large number of individuals who practice the learned profession of the law, or if we add, too, the numerous persons outside the classes just mentioned who are more or less identified as citizens in the efficient working of our political system, we shall see how many men in this country are deeply interested in the accurate study of Political Science.

The study of constitutional law and of constitutional history, in fact, opens up to the lawyer an exhaustive field of research. It broadens his sphere of knowledge much more than the ordinary technical studies of his profession. Questions constantly arise which require him to make investigations into the annals of the times preceeding the formation of the constitution, and to inquire by what events it was preceded, as well as to study the nature and scope of the provincial organizations previous to Confederation.

But it is not merely the lawyer, the statesman, or the publicist, who has a deep interest in the consideration of the various political and economic questions which enter into the course of which I am speaking. There is one class which, above all others, should have a deep insight into the wise solution of the many social problems which arise from time to time and demand the earnest thought of every person who looks to the happiness of the community. No one would wish to see the clergy take an active interest or participate vigorously in the purely political conflicts of the day—I mean, such an interest or participation as would weaken their influence in their proper sphere;—but no one now-a-days can keep aloof from great human interests, and occasions may arise when even clergymen may properly consider it necessary to give warning and advice, not as partisans, but as dispassionate, impartial critics, animated solely by a conscientious desire to unite and not disserve the different classes which make up the people of this Dominion, and to consider the national good as the highest and purest purpose of a Canadian's life.

Nor should I forget to refer to the important effects that a course of Political Science may have upon journalism in Canada. In a country of popular government, the press necessarily exercises a large influence which, on the whole in Canada, is directed to the promotion of the public interests. It is true that party conflict has given to the great majority of our public journals a partisan character which too often prevents the people from obtaining that impartial criticism of public men and matters of controversy which they have a right to expect from their self-constituted teachers. Partisan journalism is, however, one of the penalties we must expect to pay for party government, and the time seems yet far off when independent journalism is likely to assert itself on any large scale. No one will deny that the leading newspapers of the Dominion are edited and written with decided ability, and represent fairly the intelligence of the country at large. The tendency in Canada, as in the United States, is to publish short crisp articles in the editorial columns, instead of the elaborate, and often too heavy, articles which