

contracts generally? And why should it be difficult to devise a Statute which would in each province regulate on the same principle the taxes on successions?

One great advantage resulting from this mode of preparing laws is that they are drafted by experts, from whom clearer and more consistent legislation may be expected than from the isolated and often unscientific attempts of local legislators. Year by year we fill our statute books with crude and careless legislation.

But above and beyond the material advantages which would surely result from the careful and dispassionate study of our respective systems, consider also the great benefits of a higher order which must flow from regular and periodic conferences of this kind.

Deliberate and systematic isolation means lack of comprehension, suspicion and distrust. It means that we renounce our opportunities for disseminating the good that is in us, and that we are likely to intensify and perpetuate our peculiar defects.

On the other hand a habit of meeting together and comparing our respective systems could not fail to contribute to a better understanding. While it would probably reveal that there is an irreducible minimum on which, for the present at least, we had better agree to disagree, it would disclose vast fields in which our divergences are merely superficial and not irreconcilable. Because there is a marriage question which at present divides us, because there is a School question, and because there will in future be other burning questions which must be settled by wise and tolerant statesmanship—are these reasons why we should refrain from discarding our imperfections and imitating the good points of our neighbours in matters which are not controversial?

Shall we not rather multiply the points of contact in the hope that the more we find we have in common, the more considerate shall we become in discussing those subjects on which we must be content to differ.