

turbing any fundamental principles in the basic systems of the several provinces of Canada, and without trenching in the least degree on treaty rights and historic traditions.

In no field of jurisprudence will greater unanimity be found to exist in favour of more uniformity than in that of commercial law. There are really no obstacles in our way, for the principles of the "law merchant" are much the same all over the world, and even in countries where ordinary contracts are governed by the civil law, mercantile relations are frequently regulated by a commercial code based on international usage. Moreover, in Canada, a very important part of this field is under the control of the Dominion Parliament, and we have Federal codes on Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes, Banks and Banking, Savings Banks, Navigation and Shipping, Patents and Copyrights, Currency and Coinage. The Canadian Parliament has also exclusive legislative jurisdiction over Bankruptcy and Insolvency.

As to the portions of mercantile law not committed to the legislative action of the central parliament, there can be no difficulty in harmonizing the law of all the provinces whose systems are derived from the law of England. And even as to Quebec the differences in the law on this subject are negligible. The codifying commissioners in their report on the fourth book of the Code dealing with Commercial Law, state that our system has been borrowed without much discrimination partly from France and partly from England, and that the laws of commerce are of universal application and for the most part differ little in different countries except in matters of detail. Again, the law of evidence in commercial cases is of English origin, and our Code provides (C.C. 1206) that, except in the rare cases where special provisions are contained therein for the proof of facts concerning commercial matters, recourse must be had to the rules of evidence laid down by the laws of England.

It is unnecessary to state that our merchants and manufacturers, from Halifax to Vancouver, would welcome as an inestimable boon the unification of our commercial laws.