

date passed seven out of the nine measures presented to its legislature for adoption.

Such are the results of an undertaking which was at first regarded by many of the profession with skepticism or indifference. The pioneers who devoted their time and energy to this disinterested and patriotic endeavour are now reaping their reward, for their educative campaign of twenty years has secured them the sympathy and active co-operation not only of statesmen and lawyers throughout the country, but also of the commercial and industrial community.

It will be interesting to you to hear that the mere publication of our own programme in this country has already aroused an interest among merchants and manufacturers, and that our President has recently received letters of encouragement and offers of assistance from representative bodies.

Let us now consider the subjects upon which it would be desirable and practicable to aim at greater unity without disturbing 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