

tion, and also separates public from private Acts and adds a convenient classification of subjects, which practice is a time-saver and is worthy of adoption by all the Provinces in issuing their annual statutes.

11. *Reports.*—The Association as representative of all branches of the legal profession in Canada, and with pride in the manner in which our Courts are discharging their judicial duties, ventures in a spirit, not of criticism but of co-operation, to address to the Courts whose opinions are reported the following comments and suggestions:—

The accumulation of reported cases is the subject of grave concern and with the growth of the population litigation in all the Courts will increase in like proportion, and it is not improbable that in the near future the burden of accumulated precedent will become serious and may jeopardise the doctrine of the sanctity of judicial precedent.

The Association recognizes the joint interest of the Bench and Bar, and does not minimize the responsibility of the Bar for this evil, nor its duty to co-operate in applying the remedy. The Association submits the matter is one for the special cognizance of the judiciary, and no reform can be so effective as those remedies which judicial initiative can supply.

The Association therefore approaches the Courts for consideration, and urges that they seriously address themselves to this problem, and with all respect submits the following suggestions:—

- (a) A conscious effort at the shortening of opinions and the recognition of brevity as a cardinal virtue second only to clearness.
- (b) An avoidance of multiplied citations and of elaborate discussions of well-settled principles and of lengthy extracts from text books and reports.
- (c) The presentation of so much and no more of the facts as are necessary to present the precise question at issue.
- (d) A reduction of the number of reasoned opinions and a corresponding increase in the number of memorandum or *per Curiam* decisions, with a brief statement, when necessary, of the points decided and of the ruling authorities.