

District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, the Philippine Islands and Porto Rico, commissioners have been appointed, and twenty-four annual conferences have been held since 1892. From the report of the conference held last year, it appears that the Negotiable Instruments Act, adopted by the conference of 1896, is now the law in forty-seven states, territories and possessions; the Warehouse Receipts Act is in force in thirty-one; the Sales Act in eleven; the Bills of Lading Act in twelve; the Stock Transfer Act in nine; the Act Relating to Wills executed without the State in ten; and the Family Desertion Act in eight.

Reports have been presented on the Uniform Incorporation Act, the Unification of Commercial Law, the Uniform Partnership Act, Wills, Descent and Distribution, Insurance, Workmen's Compensation Act, Situs of Real and Personal Estate for purposes of Taxation, Automobile Legislation, Uniformity of Judicial Decisions, and on various other important subjects.

It is worthy of note that the State of Louisiana which, like the Province of Quebec, is governed by the civil law, has participated in the movement for uniformity, and has, up to this 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 dis-