

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

No comparison
Slivrats
at Harvard
don't practice
in courts
Practise

great
law
schools
have nothing
to do with
courts.

field of the common law with a necessarily limited staff can never successfully compete with such institutions as Columbia, Harvard, Winnipeg or Toronto, where a considerable number of instructors - some of them recognized specialists - devote their time to the teaching of common-law subjects; and secondly, because of the enormous disadvantage under which a common-law school will labour if it is established and maintained in a province in which the common law is not practised in the courts. It would seem about as difficult to successfully maintain a school of common law in a locality where there are no common-law courts as it would be to maintain a medical faculty where no hospitals existed and no clinical facilities were available.

See
Practise
Courts

Even, therefore, if the staff of such a school could be very largely increased, so as to compare with that of law schools in the United States and in the other provinces of Canada, there would still exist the great disadvantage resulting from the absence of a common-law atmosphere in this province. While we are convinced that some instruction in common law would prove useful to the lawyers in this province who are in constant communication with those in the other parts of Canada, and while we would therefore regard with favour the maintenance of a limited course of lectures on comparative law in the different parts of the Dominion, we think that the more ambitious scheme of founding and maintaining in McGill a national law school which would equip students for practice in all the provinces of Canada is, for the present at least, doomed to failure.