

city's invitation had been liberally responded to, and he was happy to give them the most cordial of welcomes. He referred in a pleasant manner to the fact that a member of their profession now occupied the highest position in the gift of Canadians. Mr. Laurier was eminently suited for the holding of such a position, both by his ability and other personal qualifications. His Worship received much applause for his tactful and appropriate speech.

Hon. Mr. Robidoux was accorded a warm reception on arising to speak. His address was in French.

He emphatically denied that the Association was formed with any idea of abolishing the old French laws so dear to all of them, but the reverse, for they would cherish them as much as ever. They were all imbued with the same aspirations, and all their efforts were working towards the same end. This was not the country of the French, he said, nor the English, the Scotch, nor the Irish, it was the country of the Canadians. (Applause.) That mixture of French and English, with their different temperaments, would make at last, he felt sure, the greatest country in the world. (Great applause.)

Hon. F. Peters, Q.C., Premier of Prince Edward Island, followed with a brief but hearty acknowledgement of the hospitality of the city and Bar of Montreal. They had come to Montreal fully prepared to engage in a very dry business, but it had turned out to be a most interesting and enjoyable visit. Speaking on the part of the representatives from the Maritime Provinces, they would certainly never forget the courtesies they had received in Montreal.

Hon. Mr. Justice Champagne referred in happy terms to the good work the Association would be called on to do. His graceful address in French was listened to with much interest.

Mr. O. A. Howland referred to the good fortune the Association had in having as its birthplace the metropolitan city of Canada, the enterprise of whose citizens corresponded to the geographical advantages of its situation. The members of the Bars of other Provinces had come to Montreal not to destroy, nor to depreciate, but to see and to learn. English lawyers would not be found despisers of the civil law, nor desirous of its annihilation. They did not forget that in the hands of the Church it had carried down through the Dark Ages a spark of civilization caught from the wreck of the ancient Empire. It had illuminated the great equity lawyers of England. The principles they introduced had now, by legislation, become the prevailing rule in what used to be the domain of the common law. Law was becoming more and more the creature of legislation. The code of Quebec itself was the result of an enactment. In the future of legislation the system of the civil law, founded upon principle, ought to be consulted with advantage, in preference to a system of law founded upon precedent and accident. English members of the Montreal Bar had assured him of their satisfaction with the civil law of this province. Another object prominently before the Association would be the questions of international law, in which Canada, from her wide political connections, through the Empire, and her close neighborhood with the great Power to the south, had a vital interest. He joined with the preceding speakers in expressing on behalf of the western delegates their deep and lasting appreciation of the magnificent welcome extended to the conference by the Mayor and corporation of the city of Montreal. (Applause.)

The mayor announcing that they were due at the Court House to receive the Chief Justice, the party returned in the carriages to the Court House.

At 4 o'clock Sir Alexander Lacoste, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, entered the room accompanied by a number of his colleagues, who took their seats on the Bench, the assembly standing to receive them. The other Judges present were the Hon. M. M. Tait, Acting Chief Justice of the Superior Court, and Hon. Justices Curran, Doherty, Ouimet, Taschereau and Loranger. Mr. Robidoux said:

"Gentlemen, you will now have the pleasure of hearing the Chief Justice of the highest tribunal of this province. His name is familiar, not only to the