

Canada Law Journal.

VOL. LI.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1915

No. 2

ONTARIO BAR ASSOCIATION.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Delivered by Mr. F. M. Field, K.C., at the Eighth Annual Meeting.

We meet under extraordinary conditions; the great Empire, of which we form no inconsiderable part, is at war. Viscount Haldane, the Lord Chancellor of England, in his splendid address on "Higher Nationality" at Montreal in September, 1913, used these words:—

"In the year which is approaching a century will have passed since the United States and the people of Canada and Great Britain terminated a great war by the Peace of Ghent. . . . We should steadily direct our thoughts to how we can draw into closest harmony the nations of a race in which all of us have a common pride . . . If that be now a far-spread inclination, then indeed may the people of three great countries say to Jerusalem 'Thou shalt be built,' and to the Temple 'Thy foundations shall be laid.'"

With these noble words ringing in our ears, we had been looking forward with eagerness and enthusiasm to a celebration befitting the culmination of one hundred years of peace between the two great English-speaking nations. The Presidential address of December, 1912, concludes with these words, which, however, can scarcely now be described as prophetic:—

"The growing popularity of the Hague Tribunal is gratifying not only to the lawyer but to the world at large. . . . The peaceful message of the lawyer will go on until the ruffianism of war between two countries will be no more tolerated . . . and the lawyer's elysium will be realized.