

their business, or making investments, or entering into contracts involving many obligations, in different provinces, will take a chance on their own business judgment as to the propriety of their engagements, but do not care to risk the uncertainties of the laws of the different legal jurisdictions. They desire to know definitely their legal rights and remedies. They may know the law of the place in which they live, but they are timid about business which may be regulated or determined by laws of other provinces of which they are ignorant, and are made still more timid when they are informed that the laws relating to their business differ in the several provinces—not the federal law, but those laws which relate to property and civil rights, under which their transactions would mainly come. If, therefore, persons residing in one place wish to transact business or invest money or own property in another legal jurisdiction, they will do so all the more readily if they know that their rights, obligations and remedies are the same as in the jurisdiction in which they live. There is no good reason why they should not be so, for the principles of commerce and of business remain the same from generation to generation, and as those principles are constant, there is no reason why the law embodying them should not be the same and expressed in the same language, and only altered when any change in general business principles requires it. The grievances caused by differing provincial laws are not felt by the larger business interests alone, by manufacturers, wholesale merchants, financial and transportation companies, insurance corporations and employers, and the like, but also by those dealing with them, shareholders and bondholders of companies, the insured, the borrowers and workmen; all are embarrassed by the different provincial laws to which their rights are subject, and sometimes anathematize it with admirable fervour, and the lawyers along with it, though they are in no way responsible. Recently a party composed of a dozen leading Manitoba barristers visited the cities of Saskatchewan and Alberta in the interests of the Association, were entertained at a luncheon given at Edmonton by the Board of Trade. The gathering, composed of the business men of the place, was addressed by two of our