

may be to-day, there can only be one opinion as to the wonderful achievement of the juriconsults who out of this welter of diversity constructed the German Civil Code.

But however successful the great unitary systems may have proved to be in welding together and strengthening the nations which have adopted them, our choice has been made in favour of less centralization and more local autonomy.

Recognizing the definitive character of this choice, the constitution of the Canadian Bar Association, in the enumeration of its objects, sets forth that one of them is to "promote the administration of justice and uniformity of legislation throughout Canada so far as consistent with the preservation of the basic systems of law in the respective provinces."

Our programme, in fact, is identical with that of the American Bar Association which about a quarter of a century ago started the movement for unification in the United States. There, as you know, the antagonism which began in the time of Hamilton and Jefferson between Federalists and States Righters has been far more acute than our own controversies with respect to Dominion and provincial powers, and the American constitution confers far less powers on the central government than the British North America Act does on the Dominion Parliament. But notwithstanding this handicap a large field for useful work has been found and a remarkable achievement has been recorded. A glance at the history of this movement may set us thinking as to the applicability of the methods employed to our own conditions, and suggest the extent to which we may follow along those lines.

The efforts of the American Bar Association resulted in the creation of a commission on Uniform State Laws. This organization consists of commissioners appointed by the governors of the different states, territories and possessions of the United States for the purpose of drafting and recommending for adoption by the various legislatures, forms of bills or measures to make uniform the laws of the different jurisdictions on which uniformity seems practicable and desirable. In every state of the Union (48), in every territory and possession, including the