

in Canada, the tendency and quiet movement is towards codification.

(8) It is impossible to over-rate the benefits of bringing the laws of the different provinces into substantial harmony by a codification of the great underlying principles more or less common to all.

One reason and perhaps it is most forcible of all for keeping the codification of the common law continually in view, is its influence on the unification of law throughout the Empire. Most of the improvements in the form of the English law are followed up after no long interval by substantially identical legislation in the British Dominions. The Bills of Exchange Act, the Partnership Act and the Sale of Goods Act, for example, have been adopted almost everywhere in British Dominions. The Criminal Code recommended by the English Commissioners but not yet adopted by the British Parliament, was enacted by our Federal Parliament. The Bills of Exchange Act has largely influenced the enactment of the Negotiable Instruments law which has now been adopted in nearly all the States and Territories of the American Union.

What Rome did under equally difficult circumstances, what other intelligent and strong nations have done, Canadians can do. This youngest of the nations, heir of all the ages, was not born for a position of insignificance but of greatness. It needs the leadership of our best jurists and lawyers.

In addition to the tendency in the common law provinces toward a form of codification such as prevails in Quebec and leading to a greater similarity of Canadian jurisprudence, there are other influences ceaselessly at work to create a more general and better jurisprudence. The convenience of inter-provincial business requires it. Time and the fact that we will be addressed on this subject by another better qualified to speak prevents further statement from me on it.

Let me only say that history shews how fatuous and destructive is any attempt of any considerable body of people to coerce into uniformity with their own the conflicting ideas and con-