

your consideration aim at the fusion of the two great systems of law which prevail in Canada. It is not that the task in itself is an impossible one. France and Germany have, indeed, achieved success in this direction under conditions even more complicated than our own. In France the Roman law prevailed in the south, while Teutonic customary law prevailed in the north.

And there were sixty general or provincial customs, and three hundred local customs governing civil rights in cities, towns and villages. Such was the chaos of jurisprudence which the framers of the Code Napoleon were called upon to harmonize. In Germany there were four great systems of different origin, and an infinity of local customs which sometimes differed in the same town according to the side of the street on which you lived. However discredited things "made in Germany" 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