

Uniformity in Provincial Legislation

As a very large percentage of the Canadian people are interested in property and carry on business in only one province, few Canadians know the difficulties encountered by those who carry on business in several provinces on account of the differences of the provincial laws. There are two classes who have occasion to know of such difficulties by both experience and observation: first, Canadian financial institutions, manufacturers and wholesale merchants or jobbers whose businesses are necessarily carried on throughout Canada irrespective of provincial limits; second, the legal profession, whose duty it is to know not only Federal but provincial law, and incidentally in a general way the differences between the laws of the several provinces.

The first class are actuated by ordinary commercial motives; the second class by the public spirit, the "noblesse oblige" which has generally characterized the high profession of the law. Not only has the legal profession in Canada knowledge of the difficulties occasioned by differences in provincial laws, but it has taken steps, as far as it lies in its power, to overcome the difficulties by promoting uniformity in provincial laws. Recently The Canadian Bar Association was formed; the expressed objects of the Association are:

"To advance the science of jurisprudence, 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, uphold the honor of the profession of law, and encourage cordial intercourse among the members of the Canadian Bar."

Last October the Council of the Association met in Toronto and appointed a Committee on Legislation with a view of making effective the purposes expressed in the Constitution of the Association.

You will, therefore, see that the Association, composed of lawyers from all provinces of Canada, actuated by the highest and best motives, have perhaps proceeded further than those of the first class who will receive material benefit from greater uniformity in the different laws of the several provinces.

Whether actuated by motives of material advantage, or the broader motive of public benefit, all interested should co-operate in