

tion Act in 4 states; and the Probate of Foreign Wills Act in 9 states, territories and federal districts and possessions. These results have been set forth in the chronological order in which the various acts have been approved by the Conference, and it will be seen that, in view of the time during which each of the acts has been under consideration by the various legislatures, the approval and adoption of them has been steady and regular in proportion to the opportunity afforded.

It is inevitable that, in the progress of thus making uniform the laws of the various states on subjects of interstate application, the study involved must, and does, result in the clarification of the law as expressed in the uniform draft of it, and likewise in the elimination therefrom of all unnecessary, confusing and divergent features.

If it is said that complete uniformity of law is a long way from accomplishment, and that the task is so colossal as to be well-nigh impossible of performance, it is answered that no task, however colossal, was ever accomplished nor could be accomplished until a beginning had been made, and that any degree of uniformity is better than no uniformity at all.

The progress made by the Conference in its twenty-five years of service has amply demonstrated, to the satisfaction of every one who has given the matter serious investigation, that the work is beneficent in its results, that distinct progress has been made, that full accomplishment is only a question of time, that every step of progress along this line makes the next step easier, and that the force of the movement is cumulative. It is superficial and pointless to ask the question whether absolute uniformity is attainable. It is superficial because the movement for uniformity of law does not depend upon the answer to the question. I repeat that the value of the movement rests upon the proposition that even partial uniformity is much better than none. The question is pointless, because there is no way of answering it except by actual trial. The trial made by this body has, during its twenty odd years of existence, answered the question emphatically in the affirmative and in the only way in which it can be answered. It cannot be answered by discussion, by argument or by debate. It can be answered only in practice.