

*Article 8*—The word "province" whenever used in this Constitution, shall be deemed to be equivalent to "Province and Territory of Canada."

At 4 p.m., on Sept. 16th, Sir Alexander Lacoste, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, addressed the meeting as follows:—

"Mr. *Bdtonnier* and gentlemen of the Bar, I was not prepared for such eulogistic remarks as those with which I have been introduced. The *Bdtonnier* and I are old friends, and I think he wanted in the first place to create a favorable impression upon your minds concerning me before the delivery of my address. I must thank him most cordially for what he has said, and thank you also for the most gratifying reception which you accord me.

"Now, gentlemen of the Bar, it is indeed, as the *Bdtonnier* said yesterday, a great honor for Montreal to be the birthplace of the Canadian Bar Association. I am proud of addressing such a distinguished assembly on such a memorable occasion. This Association, established upon a firm basis, conducted and managed in a liberal spirit, will no doubt have a beneficial influence on the future of our country. Our people is composed of heterogeneous elements which sometimes generate misunderstandings and clashings that trouble the mind of good and peaceful citizens. These misunderstandings arise from want of mutual confidence, and the want of confidence is due to the absence of frequent and intimate relations, which would afford us the means to know and appreciate each other. No doubt this is the reason why prejudices are so strong, why in some cases we despise instead of appreciating each other. We see divisions when harmony ought to reign, that harmony which is so indispensable to promote the prosperity and greatness of our fatherland. (Applause.)

"An Association whose object is to draw closer and tighter the bonds which unite the citizens of the different provinces, which seeks to call them together more often and more intimately, naturally commends itself to the attention and good will of every true Canadian, but your Association is of special interest because it concerns the union of the members of a profession whose influence is greater, I dare say, than any other upon society, and which is more apt than any other to dispel those prejudices which we deprecate. (Hear, hear.)

"Associations grow more numerous in our days. Almost every class of laborers and trades now seek protection by associating together. Their chief purpose is the personal interest of their members, and in their zeal to save their rights they sometimes encroach upon those of other classes and thus become a cause of danger to the commonwealth. The main object of your Association is not the personal interest of its members. It is true that the profession at large as a body will benefit by it; but, as the lawyer's functions concern the welfare of society at large, that society especially shall reap the fruits of your work.

"I do not believe that your Association will endeavor to assimilate the law of the Province of Quebec to that of the others, nor will it try to