

SOME MODERN TENDENCIES.

Annual Address to Nebraska State Bar Association, January 9th, 1908, by R. C. Smith, K.C., President Montreal Bar Association.

I cannot find words to express the pleasure I feel in being present with you to-day, and the pleasure I have felt in attending the meetings of the Bar Association of Nebraska. It is not always possible to analyze one's moods and feelings so as to assign a definite cause to each of the elements in a cumulative sentiment, whether it be of satisfaction or of sorrow. If I am wrong in my history—and it will not be the first time—I am sure you, sir, will correct me, but I understand that when an illustrious general named George Washington was making great history upon a portion of this continent in a war with my national ancestors—if I may so call them—the State of Nebraska, as a State, maintained a strict neutrality, even according to the revised standards of the Hague Convention. But that is certainly not the reason of my pleasure in being here. Nor does the rapid development and present greatness of your State altogether account for my feelings. My delight is undoubtedly due in part to the fact that I am among lawyers. In Portland, a few months ago, some one said: "For once I have heard lawyers, as a class, well spoken of." "And where was this?" he was asked. "At the meetings of the Bar Association," he replied. As a class, I fear we have not suffered the woe that is decreed "when all men speak well of you." Though I am among lawyers, and enjoy the spirit of confraternity that always exists among them, I am not without some embarrassment. We read that wise men came from the East. We are not told that they came to criticize and rectify everything in the West. Still it is one of a lawyer's functions to give advice. Samson shorn of his locks could not have felt more absolutely helpless than I feel, finding myself in a jurisdiction where I am not