

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION.

By E. H. COLEMAN, *Secretary-Treasurer*.

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Association was held at Vancouver, B. C., on August 16th and 17th and at Victoria on August 18th. Each year's meeting has witnessed an advance both in attendance and interest and it is gratifying that this year again the report is that the Annual Meeting was the most successful in the history of the Association.

The Council of the Association held the view that it was necessary, if the Association was to be a really Canadian organization and to be of service to the members of the Bar in all parts of the country, that the meetings should not be confined to the most central parts of Canada. It is no secret that some of them viewed the experiment with a little apprehension, more especially since the meeting was fixed for British Columbia in a year of business and financial depression. However, the result proved the wisdom of the policy adopted by the Council. The attendance from the Eastern Provinces exceeded the highest expectations of those in charge of the arrangements, and the meeting stimulated to a high degree the interest and enthusiasm of the British Columbia Bar. The kindly interest and unbounded hospitality of the Judges and members of the Bar on the Pacific Coast will always remain as one of the most pleasant memories of those who were privileged to attend the meeting.

As usual the addresses and papers presented were of a very high order. The presence and inspiring addresses of the Right Hon. Lord Shaw of Dunfermline, of Hon. John W. Davis, the President of the American Bar Association, of M. Henri Aubepin, representing the Bar of Paris, and of the representatives of the Japanese Bar, emphasized the very important work which the Association is doing in developing good feeling between members of the Canadian Bar and the

profession throughout the world. By a happy coincidence, the Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association was held at San Francisco during the preceding week, and the Canadian Association was favoured by the presence of some 300 or 400 members of the American Bar Association who came north to attend the meeting.

From the point of view of internal policy of the Association, one of the most important steps was the decision to establish the CANADIAN BAR REVIEW. The Association took this forward step in the faith that a sufficient number of members would assist by taking out Life Memberships, the income from which will be devoted to a special fund to assure the Association against financial loss in the operation of the REVIEW, and encouraged by a munificent donation of \$10,000 by the President, Sir James Aikins, the income from which will be devoted to the same end. It is the confident hope of the Council, however, that the members of the Bar generally will accord such support to the CANADIAN BAR REVIEW that this fund will not be required for maintenance purposes and may be used in improving the journal.

The members of the Association were not prepared to accede to the request of Sir James Aikins to be relieved of his office as President, but, in order that he might have assistance in directing the executive work of the Association as a whole, they amended the Constitution by providing for a Vice-President whose activities will not be restricted to a single Province. To fill this office they elected the Hon. Mr. Justice Martin, of Montreal, who has since been appointed Chief Justice of the Superior Court at Montreal.

A very important suggestion was made in a letter directed to the President by the Attorney-General of England, who asked whether, in the event of the American Bar Association accepting an invitation to hold their Annual Meeting in London in 1924, the Canadian Bar Association would come over and act as joint hosts with the English Bar. The Attorney-General

intimated that, of course, the thought was that the expense of entertainment in London would be a matter for the English Bar but that the Canadian Bar Association, as representing the Bar of the Dominion most closely connected with the United States Bar, would be officially associated as host. Since this invitation was contingent upon an acceptance by the American Bar Association, the Canadian Bar Association could not do more than acknowledge with thanks the very high compliment implied in the suggestion and defer definite action until the decision of the American Bar Association is known. It is understood that the Executive of the American Bar Association is engaged in canvassing the opinions of their members on the proposal, and may take action at their mid-winter meeting. In the event of an acceptance by the American Bar Association, the Council of the Canadian Bar Association will have to give careful thought to this very important suggestion. It is felt that all the members of the profession in Canada will recognize that, if it is at all practicable, the matter should have favourable consideration.

In future numbers of the REVIEW, I hope to refer in greater detail to various important and interesting reports presented at the meeting.