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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

With this number The Canadian Bar Review marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding. Writing in the first issue for January 1923, Dr. Charles Morse, the Editor, referred to the forces of anarchy that still persisted after the first World War, and to many it will seem that the intervening years have brought no improvement. From one point of view certainly they were years of frustration and failure, to be remembered for the excesses of the 'twenties, the great depression and the collapse of the League of Nations in the 'thirties, and a second World War during the 'forties. But the coin always has another side and they were also years during which Canada, and we like to think the Review with it, moved steadily along the road to maturity.

The first number appeared, then, in January 1923. Its parent was the Canadian Bar Association, whose official organ it has been from the beginning. But its founding also owed something to the two law journals whose names appear each month on its title page. At the time of their incorporation in the Review in 1923, the Canada Law Journal had had a history under one name or another of sixty-eight years, going back to 1855, and the Canadian Law Times of forty-two years, to 1881. These journals, our foster parents, kept alive the habit of legal writing and research in Canada and, through them, the Review can justly claim a tradition much longer than its actual life.

To us it seems that the chief function of a law journal is to provide a forum through which men can pass on to others their acquired knowledge, experience and humanity. In the first issue Dr. Morse spoke of the Review "as a means of translating into action the fine motto of the Association — *Justitia, Officium, Patria*". We acknowledge gratefully the debt of the legal profession to the late Dr. Morse and his successor, Dr. Cecil A. Wright, who between them, in the spirit of that motto, edited this Review during most of its life.

The lawyer need not be overly modest about his place in society. Law is the keystone in the complicated arch that is the modern state. In the law economics, sociology, medicine, psychiatry and most other branches of human knowledge have a common meeting place — a fact that places an almost intoler-

able burden on the lawyer. The frontiers of knowledge have been pushed back so rapidly that a single individual cannot master all the sciences with which the law is concerned, or even all the branches of the law itself. Law must be a synthesis of the wisdom of men of varying experiences in all its branches and in all the sciences. It is the function of the law journal among other agencies to focus that wisdom.

The Review is proud that it represents two great legal systems, the common law and the civil law, and that it has received in generous measure the support of Canadians of two races and languages, the English-speaking barristers and solicitors of the eight common-law provinces and the French-speaking *avocats* of Quebec. It is grateful too that distinguished jurists of Great Britain and France, the sister Dominions and the United States have always been willing to contribute to its pages. On this our anniversary, however, we gather with members of the immediate family only, to discuss the special problems of Canadian law.

Because an anniversary is an appropriate time to take stock, we have devoted this number to articles discussing developments in Canadian law during the lifetime of the Review. The period may have particular significance for no one but ourselves and the survey offered is not exhaustive. Some of the most important branches of Canadian law are covered, however, and by authors each of whom is especially qualified to write on his subject. Both the common-law provinces and Quebec are represented, as are the practising and teaching sides of the profession. The number will thus aid in a needed evaluation of the adequacy of the law in a still changing Canada.

The survey will show that the developments in Canadian law during the period have been many and useful. It may also leave the conviction that in several of its branches the law is ill-equipped to meet the needs of contemporary society. To the extent that this is so the legal profession must accept primary responsibility, for law is its business. Certainly no one is as qualified to work whatever reforms are needed as the lawyer, with his training in objective analysis and his peculiar combination of conservatism and initiative. Of its responsibilities and qualifications the legal profession is becoming increasingly aware.

With this number the Review begins its second twenty-five years. Prophecy is the vainest of pastimes and we venture no guess as to the form it will take in the future. We say only that its editors will do their best to make it useful to the profession and through the profession to the country. In this effort they ask the profession's active support.

THE EDITOR