

THE CANADIAN BAR REVIEW

VOL. XXVI

December

No. 10

A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

It is with pleasure that, as President of the Canadian Bar Association, I avail myself of the opportunity afforded by the Editor to write a New Year's Message to the members of the profession throughout Canada.

Je veux saluer tout spécialement nos confrères du Barreau de Québec qui nous ont reçus si aimablement à Montréal lors de notre dernier congrès. Le souvenir d'un si chaleureux accueil demeure bien vivant dans l'esprit de chacun de nous.

Although the world outlook is confusing and uncertain as we cross the threshold of another year Canadians have much for which to be thankful. We are the recipients of the bounties of Providence in generous measure. All the amenities of friendship, freedom and security are vouchsafed to us. When we recall how great is the heritage which is ours, a spirit of profound thankfulness heartens the sense of our happiness.

We are deeply aware of the clouds of evil portent which cast their shadows over so much of the world. Many of the nations of Europe, once powerful and free, are suffering from disease, hunger and internal strife. Communism threatens Christian civilization.

In Canada the Communist, proclaiming his right as a free citizen to do so, circulates poisonous propaganda supplied him from abroad, fostering disloyalty to the State and aiming to destroy our form of Government and free institutions. He recognizes no obligation to respect the laws of our country.

Every loyal citizen owes a duty to be on the alert against this destructive influence in our midst, which constitutes a real threat to our freedom. As lawyers we have a special obligation to give warning against a movement aimed at the suppression and ultimate abolition of our democratic system of government.

At the same time we should be vigilant in seeing that those evils and injustices are removed which foster suspicion and hatred in the hearts of men and leave them susceptible to Communistic teaching.

The only certain guarantee of peace and world solidarity is general acceptance of the Christian concept of the essential dignity and worth of the individual.

It is gratifying to note the unanimity manifest among statesmen of the democracies as they stand firm against every effort to weaken and divide them. Their continued collaboration is our best assurance that peace will be maintained.

We take pride in the fact that Canada today occupies a prominent place in world affairs, and that our public men speak with one voice in the realm of foreign policy.

The prospects are for an era of great expansion with our population increasing at an accelerated rate due to a higher birth rate and a new immigration policy. The development of our vast resources proceeds at feverish pace assuring steady employment and a higher standard of living.

In the Canadian Bar Association the year 1948 has been one of sustained progress, not only in numbers, but in expanded activities.

It has been decided to institute a survey of the profession in Canada paralleling in some respects the one being conducted by the American Bar Association. This is an undertaking of magnitude and of the utmost importance to the public and to ourselves.

My wife and I are looking forward eagerly to visiting the several Provinces in the New Year when we shall have an opportunity of renewing associations with many of you whom it has been our privilege to know, while at the same time greatly enlarging our circle of acquaintance.

Our annual convention in 1949 is to be held at the Banff Springs Hotel, Banff, Alberta, between August 31st and September 3rd. The prospects are that we shall have a very large attendance and that the meeting will prove to be a memorable one. The members of the Bar in Alberta are eagerly looking forward to meeting you and welcome the opportunity of repaying some of the generous hospitality which has been shown to them by members of the profession in other parts of Canada over the years since we last met in Alberta.

It is my sincere hope that we shall go forward to greater achievement in the year 1949 and toward that end I invite the wholehearted co-operation of every member.

To all of you I extend cordial greetings and I trust that you will have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

S. H. McCUAIG

Edmonton, Alberta