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Lawyers in Canada: A Half-Century Count

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The Survey of the Legal Profession in Canada has now prepared a census of all lawyers in Canada. Copies have been distributed to the provincial law societies and to other representative groups across the country. Mr. Nelligan's article is a preliminary analysis of the information contained in the census. Special provincial analyses will be published in local periodicals at an early date.

The Council of the Survey has decided to publish all preliminary reports as they are received. It is hoped in this way to obtain the advantages of the comments and criticisms of the Bar and of the public at large. When the Survey is completed, a final comprehensive report will be published, containing the findings and general recommendations of the Council.

A census of lawyers may be regarded from two points of view. With law-school enrolment at its highest peak in history and showing little sign of abatement, the natural tendency is to measure all growth in terms of overcrowding of the profession. But this is, after all, a purely negative approach. The profession as a whole has a responsibility to the public to see that the legal knowledge and skills of the lawyer are available to every private citizen for the protection and the enforcement of his rights. Until there are enough lawyers to meet all the needs of the general public, and until those lawyers are distributed in such a way as to be most readily accessible to fill the public's needs, the problems of overcrowding cannot properly be discussed. It was with this thought in mind that the present census of the profession was undertaken. Mere numbers have a limited value in assessing such

intangibles, but they may serve as guide posts for further study and investigation.

On January 1st, 1950, there were 9,316 lawyers and notaries¹ in good standing on the rolls of the various Law Societies of Canada: the largest number in Canadian history. There were a further 322 on the rolls residing outside the province of enrolment. Most of these, it is believed, are also enrolled in the law society of the province in which they are living. It may be conservatively estimated, however, that one-third of this total of 322 are not listed anywhere else and so may be properly added to the general total. When this is done, and the 293 judges of the country are added, we find that there are approximately 9,700 legally trained persons in the Dominion, or one for every 1,395 people (see Table I²). In the United States a recent census has revealed that there is one legally trained person for every 862 people in that country.³ In fact, only four of the forty-eight states have fewer lawyers in relation to population than Canada has as a whole.

The figures just given, however, do not provide a true picture of the availability of lawyers in Canada. A large number of those included in the general totals have maintained their connection with the law societies for sentimental reasons only. Some are retired, many more have abandoned law for other fields of endeavour, and a large number are employed by government and business in various legal and administrative capacities. Of the 9,316 lawyers mentioned, 402 are not listed in the Canadian Law List at all.⁴ In relating the number of lawyers to the general population, those lawyers in active practice and available for service to the general public form the only true basis for comparison. It is to those lawyers that the balance of this study will be devoted.⁵ Separate studies of the lawyers in government and in industry are now being made and will be published at a later date.

¹ In the Province of Quebec, the notary is an essential part of the legal system, and must be included in any examination of the legal profession in that Province. Unfortunately, statistics on notaries for past years were not available, and consequently many of the references to Quebec are necessarily confined to those members of the profession who are advocates.

² The Tables are printed together at the end of the article; Charts are distributed conveniently throughout the text.

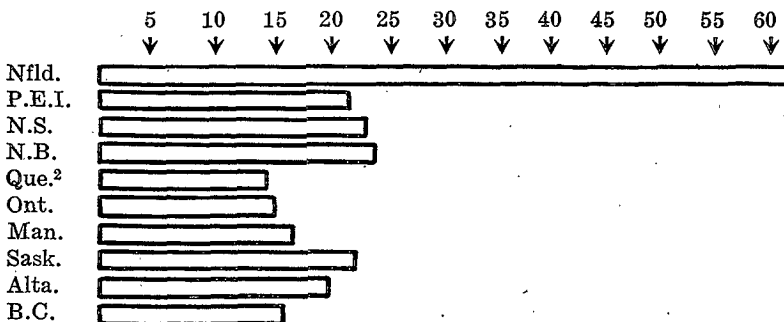
³ 36 American Bar Association Journal 370 (May, 1950). The total number of lawyers in the United States is 169,489.

⁴ None of the lawyers employed by the Dominion Government in Ottawa are listed. Many more, principally in Ontario and Quebec, who have abandoned the practice of law have had their names removed from the list at their own request.

⁵ Figures on lawyers in active practice were obtained by eliminating those lawyers shown in the Canadian Law List as not in active practice, those listed as barristers only, and those whose addresses indicated association with the courts, government or industry. It was found that reliance could not be

Lawyers in Private Practice

When we eliminate all those lawyers known to be employed in government or not engaged in the active practice of law, we find that there are at most 8,059 lawyers in the Dominion. On this basis Canada has one practising lawyer or notary for every 1,681 people (Chart I). As might be suspected, Quebec and Ontario lead the field with one for every 1,494 and one for every 1,498 respectively. Manitoba and British Columbia are close to the Dominion average, with Alberta following with one for every 2,025. Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan have roughly one for every 2,300, and New Brunswick and Nova Scotia one for every 2,400 people. The newest province, Newfoundland, trails the field with only one lawyer for every 6,327.

CHART I—*Number of Persons per Lawyer 1950¹*

¹ All figures expressed in hundreds.

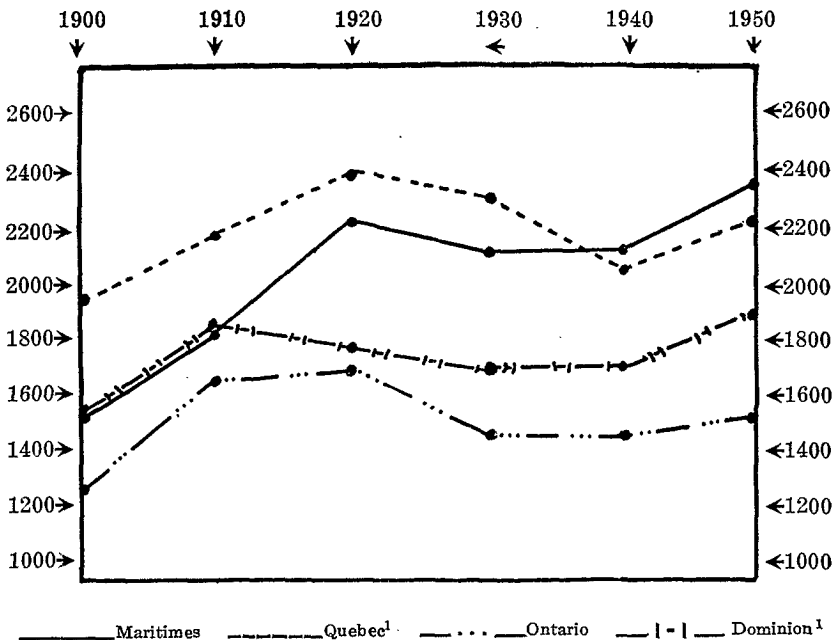
² Including notaries practising in the Province of Quebec. The Dominion, including notaries, has 1 practising lawyer for every 1,681 people.

Comparative figures were obtained for every tenth year from 1900 to 1950 (Table II). At the turn of the century, there were more lawyers in Canada in relation to the size of population than there have been at any time since. During the next ten years, however, the growth of the profession failed to keep pace with the rapid growth of the general population. The numbers of lawyers placed on the distinction made between practising and non-practising certificates issued in some provinces, since many lawyers not engaged in practice continue to take out practising certificates. The method used does not cover all cases. It was not possible to detect lawyers in retirement who still pay their fees, and they are consequently shown to be in active practice. Similarly, a few of those in other occupations have not been noted as not being in active practice and are also included. The number involved would not appear to exceed 5% of the total, and should not seriously affect the general distribution.

gradually increased again during the next twenty years, but the original ratio between lawyers and public was never fully restored. All growth in the profession stopped during the depression years. In the last ten years every province has seen a large increase in population without a corresponding increase in the number of lawyers. As a result, in the Dominion as a whole, there are fewer lawyers in relation to the size of our population today than at any time in the last fifty years. This deficiency is being remedied in part by the large classes still graduating from the country's law schools, but to regain even the position lawyers held in relation to population ten years ago, 900 more practising lawyers are still required.

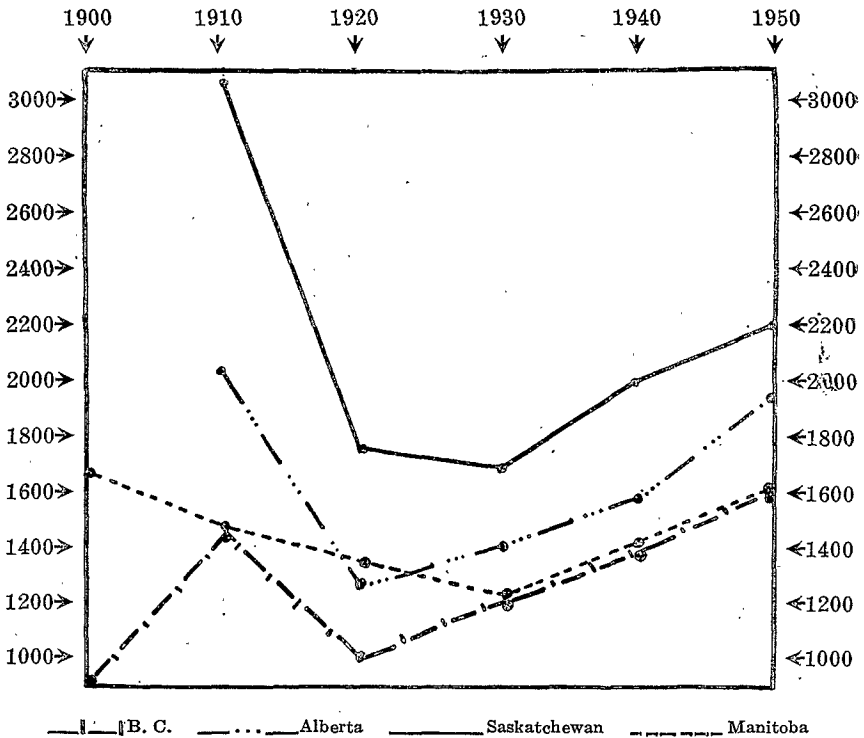
Among the individual provinces, some interesting patterns are found. The changing densities in the Eastern and Western Provinces are shown in Charts II and III. In the East there was a decline in the number of lawyers in relation to population from 1900 through 1920, and this decline was sharpest in the Mari-

CHART II—*Number of People per Lawyer in Eastern Provinces
1900-1950*



¹ Excluding notaries

CHART III—Number of People per Lawyer in Western Provinces
1900-1950



times. The numbers increased through the twenties and held fairly stable during the depression, declining again during the war years. Quebec makes a notable exception during the thirties, where alone of all the provinces there was a substantial increase in the number of lawyers.

In the West the pattern is reversed. The relative number of lawyers in each of the Western Provinces increased very substantially from 1900 to 1920. In Alberta and British Columbia maximum numbers were reached about the end of that period. The profession continued to grow to some extent in Manitoba and Saskatchewan until 1930, when its numbers began to shrink. Once the decline started, it has been constant, the drop during the depression continuing through the war years. In Saskatchewan, where the increase was the greatest, the decline has been the severest.

This fluctuation differs considerably from the pattern in the

medical profession. The Department of Labour reports that in 1941 there was one physician for every 968 people in Canada; in 1901 there was one physician for every 972 people.⁶ There were minor fluctuations in between, but the over-all ratio was constant. The physician, of course, deals directly with individuals and their ills; the lawyer, in addition to serving the individual, is concerned with corporations and the economic well-being of the community as a whole.

This dependence on economic conditions is illustrated by comparing the proportion of the total number of lawyers found in each province with that of the general population and with the proportion of Dominion income taxes paid by individuals and corporations located there in 1949⁷ (Table III). It is found that in most provinces the percentage of lawyers is almost exactly half-way between the proportion of total population and the proportion of total taxes paid in each province. Thus, 3.8% of the people of Canada live in New Brunswick, but this 3.8% only contributed 1.8% of all income taxes paid in 1949, while New Brunswick lawyers make up 2.8% of the total legal population. This ratio, with minor variations, is found in all six of the smallest provinces (Newfoundland is not included since no tax figures are available). In Ontario and British Columbia where the proportion of taxes collected is higher than the proportion of total general population, the percentage of lawyers is also higher, but not as high as it might be to be in keeping with the ratios established in the smaller provinces. In Quebec, however, the ratios appear to break down completely. Here the proportion of taxes collected is slightly less than the proportion of general population, but the number of lawyers is considerably higher. This discrepancy can probably be accounted for by the fact that the lawyer figure includes both advocates and notaries, and the notaries do not in all cases devote their full time to legal work. In fact, preliminary results of the Income Survey, conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, indicate that only about 70% of the members of the *Chambre des Notaires* devote more than half their time to notarial work. Over half the remainder do no legal work at all. Generally speaking, then, it would seem that the distribution of lawyers across the country is influenced not only by the size of population, but also by the general prosperity of the various sections of the country.

⁶ Survey of Physicians in Canada, Department of National Health and Welfare, July 1946.

⁷ Figures are derived from Taxation Statistics, published by the Department of National Revenue, 1949.

Distribution by Size of Municipality

One-third of all lawyers practising in Canada are found in the two largest cities, Toronto and Montreal. One-quarter are in the other cities of over 100,000 population, a further quarter in towns and cities of 5,000 to 100,000, and the balance in villages under 5,000 (Table IV). In most provinces there is a heavy concentration of lawyers in the principal city or cities: 60% of all British Columbia lawyers are in Vancouver; two-thirds of all Alberta lawyers are in Calgary and Edmonton; 70% of those practising in Manitoba have their offices in Winnipeg; and three-quarters of all Quebec advocates and nearly half the notaries, forming two-thirds of the profession in all, are in Montreal or Quebec. This concentration is not so startling when we compare it with the distribution of the urban population in those provinces; in fact there is an amazing conformity in most provinces with the distribution of the general population. In 1941 (the last year for which figures are available), Vancouver held 62% of the urban population of British Columbia; Winnipeg, 69% of the Manitoba population; and Calgary and Edmonton, 60% of all those in Alberta cities and towns. In Quebec this balance is not to be found, for only half the urban population is found in the cities of Montreal and Quebec.

For the most part, this same adjustment to general population is found in other sized centres (see Chart IV). Thus, 14% of the general urban population were living in communities of less than 2,500 population in 1941, and had 13% of the legal profession there to serve them. In Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, the proportion of lawyers in these smaller communities exceeds that of the general population. In Quebec, only 3% of the advocates are in towns of less than 2,500 to serve the 14% of the population living there. 30% of the notaries are situated in these communities, however, so that the balance is partly restored.

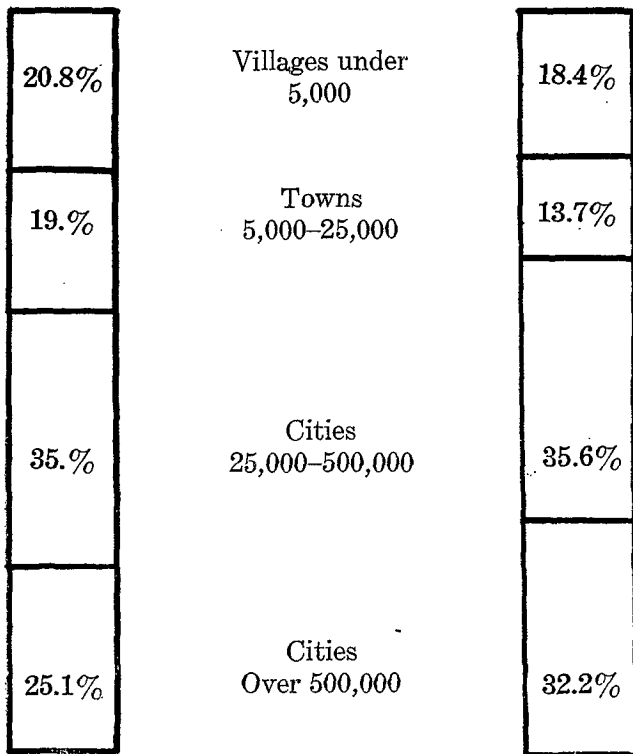
In numbers at least, the smaller rural community seems to be well served by the legal profession. 5% of all lawyers are in towns of less than 1,000 population (Table V). The largest numbers are in the Prairie Provinces. In Saskatchewan, 26% of all lawyers are in such communities. In addition to those lawyers who devote their full time to the smaller towns, many more operate branch offices or agencies in smaller rural communities. Although these offices are not included in our totals for statistical purposes, they do substantially affect the availability of legal services in rural areas.

CHART IV

*Distribution of Lawyers by Size of Municipality Compared to
Distribution of Urban Population 1940-1941*

Urban Population 1941

Practising Lawyers 1940

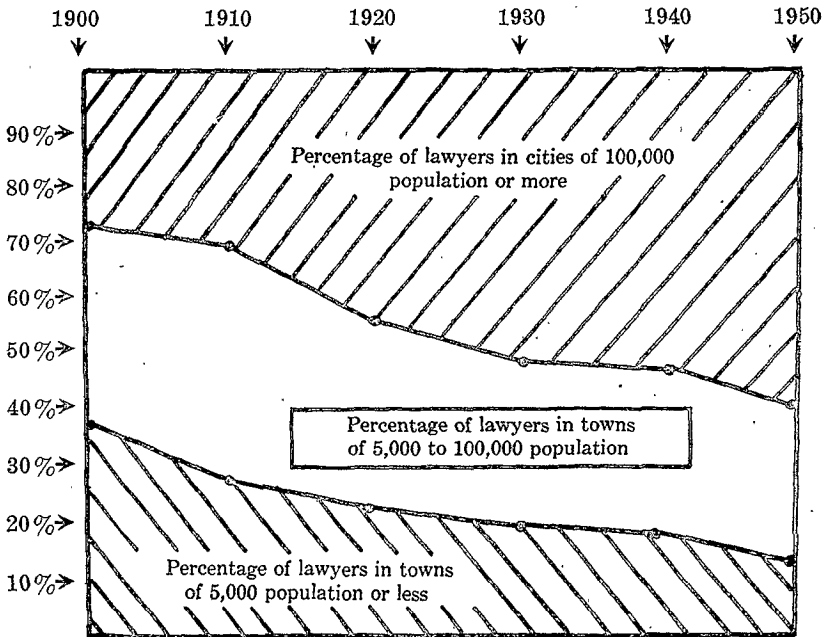


The type of community least well served would appear to be that with a population of between 5,000 and 25,000 people, where 14% of the lawyers serve 19% of the public. This discrepancy is more pronounced in some provinces, particularly Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. In Manitoba, only 5% of the lawyers are in towns of that size to serve 15% of the population, while 21% of the lawyers are in towns of less than 2,500 population to serve 12% of the public. Part of this might be explained by the fact that one of the principal towns in the 5,000 to 25,000 group is St. Boniface which is directly adjacent to Winnipeg itself. In Ontario, the medium-sized county town has long been neglected. In Belleville, for example, at the turn of the century there were 34 lawyers to serve 9,000 people. Today the

city has grown to a population of 16,000, but only 22 lawyers practise there.

In examining the changes in the distribution of the legal profession according to the size of town, we find that the general movement is toward cities over 100,000, and is away from the smaller community (see Chart V); but the shift from the small to

CHART V

Distribution of Lawyers by Size of Municipality 1900-1950

the large town is not as severe as the figures might first indicate. From 1901 until 1941 the population of towns under 5,000 decreased by over 60%, while the number of lawyers in those towns decreased by less than 10%. At the same time, the number of people living in cities over 100,000 increased almost five times, while the number of lawyers practising in such cities increased by less than three and a half times (see Table VI). There has been very little shift in the legal population in reference to the type of city during the last twenty or thirty years. Apparent changes have been caused chiefly by the growth of particular cities so that they and the lawyers practising in them are now shown in a higher category. In Alberta there has been some growth in the legal

population in Calgary and Edmonton recently at the expense of the smaller communities.

An examination of the experience of the lawyers in large and small communities would indicate that the older lawyer predominates slightly in the smallest communities, with the younger lawyers favouring the medium-sized city, including the neglected 5,000 to 25,000 type centre (see Table VII). In cities over 100,000, the proportion of old and young lawyers is roughly the same, but there are fewer older practitioners in Montreal and Toronto.

The two provinces that show the greatest divergence between older and younger practitioners are Alberta and Quebec. In Alberta 70% of the young men in practice are in Calgary or Edmonton, compared with 63% of the older Alberta lawyers who practise in those cities. In Quebec the reverse is seen: 65% of those in practice more than thirty years are in Montreal, but only 56% of those in practice less than ten. The younger men here would seem to favour the smaller community. 20% of those who have graduated during the last ten years are in towns of 25,000, or less, compared with 14% of those in practice for more than thirty years.

A tabulation was made of those new graduates appearing in the Canadian Law List for 1950, together with the net increase of lawyers shown in the 1950 list compared with that of 1949 (Table VIII). During the year more graduates went into cities over 25,000 than into those under that figure, but the emphasis on the larger community was not so strong as to affect the general distribution of lawyers to any serious degree. In Alberta, however, 14 of 16 new graduates commenced practice in Calgary and Edmonton. Since many new graduates may be inadvertently omitted from the Law List during their first year in practice, the figures obtainable in this fashion are not completely reliable. Further investigation is now being made of the movement of new graduates into the profession so that more accurate information may be obtained.

Age and Experience of Lawyers

In addition to examining the flow of new lawyers into the profession, a second factor must be considered in predicting the future condition of the bar. That is the "life expectancy" of those already in practice. After forty years in law, the average lawyer is ready to turn over his practice, or the more strenuous parts of it at least, to younger hands. As increasing numbers reach that point in their careers, more young lawyers will have to be found to replace them.

Sources used for this study did not indicate the age of individual lawyers, but did show the date of original call to the bar and entry into practice. From this a general indication of the age of the members of the profession can be obtained. An analysis of the figures available would indicate that the legal population of Canada can properly be described as "middle-aged". 28% of the lawyers have graduated within the last ten years, 25% have been in practice from ten to twenty years, and a further 25% from twenty to thirty years (see Table IX). On the assumption that those graduating within the last ten years are between the ages of 25-34, and those out from ten to twenty years are from 35-44 years of age, and so on, the first two age groups roughly correspond to the general age pattern of Canadian males over 25,⁸ but the 45-54 year group, that is, those who graduated in the twenties, far exceeds the normal number in that age category (see Table X). The older lawyer groups are smaller than the corresponding groups in the general age pattern, probably due to retirement and the gradual attrition of a strenuous profession.

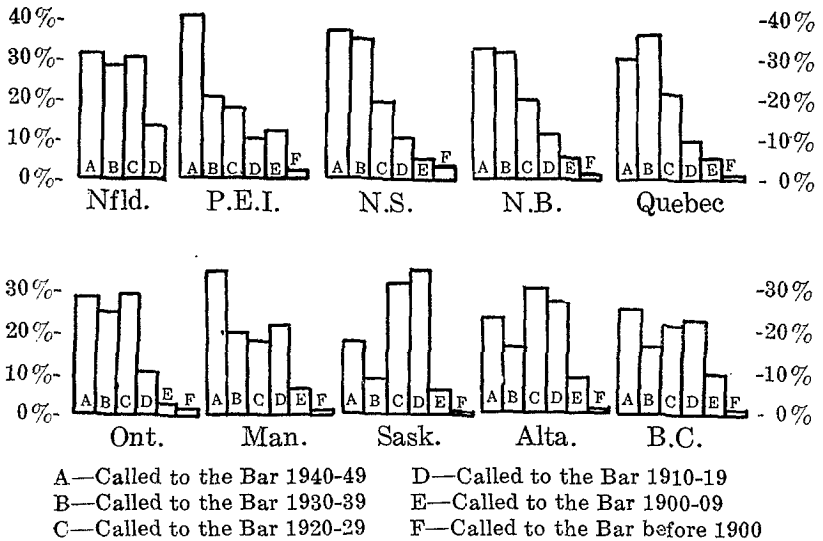
Since almost a quarter of the youngest age group entered the profession within the last year, this young group may be expected to increase considerably as the law schools continue to turn out record numbers of graduates. The fact that the number of practising lawyers who graduated in the thirties does not exceed the number graduating in the previous decade can probably be attributed to the effects of the depression. Many law graduates of that period were compelled to abandon law for other fields. The twenties still remain as the period of most rapid growth for the profession. In Ontario, in particular, there are still more lawyers in practice who graduated during that period than those who graduated in either the thirties or forties.

Within each province the experience pattern reflects the history of the particular bar (see Chart VI). Generally speaking, lawyers in the West are older than those in the East. As a result of the migration westward at the time of the First Great War, over 20% of each of the western bars is made up of lawyers who graduated between 1910 and 1919. In Saskatchewan these lawyers still form the largest single group: over one-third of the total. In the East this group generally represents 10% of the whole.

During the 1920-30 period, large numbers entered the profession in the West and in Ontario. In Quebec and the Maritimes, more turned to the bar as a career during the depression years.

⁸ Based on the 1947 estimates of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics shown in *The Canada Year Book*, 1949.

CHART VI
Experience of Lawyers, 1950



Graduates of the thirties still form the largest single group in Quebec. The new graduate group, although forming a large proportion of all provincial bars with the exception of those in the Prairie Provinces, is most prominent at the two ends of the Dominion, in Prince Edward Island and British Columbia. Since the post-war influx of law students has not yet diminished, these figures may well change during the next few years.

Type of Practice

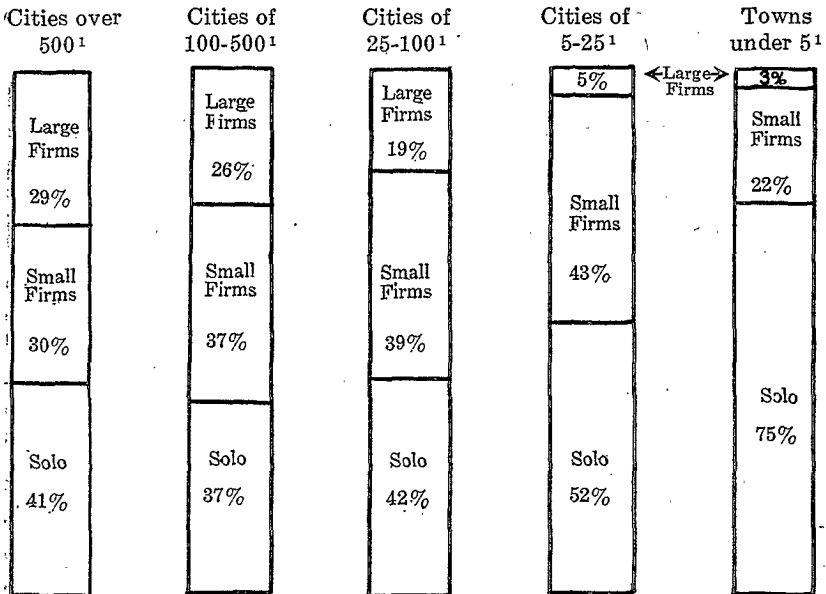
Canadian lawyers seem to prefer the society of their fellows — at least during business hours. 53% of all Canadian lawyers are associated with one or more other lawyers in the practice of their profession⁹ (see Table XI). In cities over 25,000 this figure rises to 60%, while it is only in towns of less than 5,000 population that the solo practitioner comes into his own. In these smaller centres, three out of every four lawyers practise alone (see Chart VII). In the United States, lawyers do not appear to be as gregarious — only one in every three has seen fit to join up with

⁹ Since most retired and part-time lawyers are included in the total for solo practice, if exact figures were available for those lawyers engaged in the full time pursuit of their calling, the proportion of lawyers in partnership would probably be even higher.

brother lawyers in pursuit of his calling — nor does the size of the community in which he practises seem to affect his decision to any great extent.

CHART VII

Type of Practice by Size of City, 1950, Showing Proportion of Lawyers in Various Size Firms

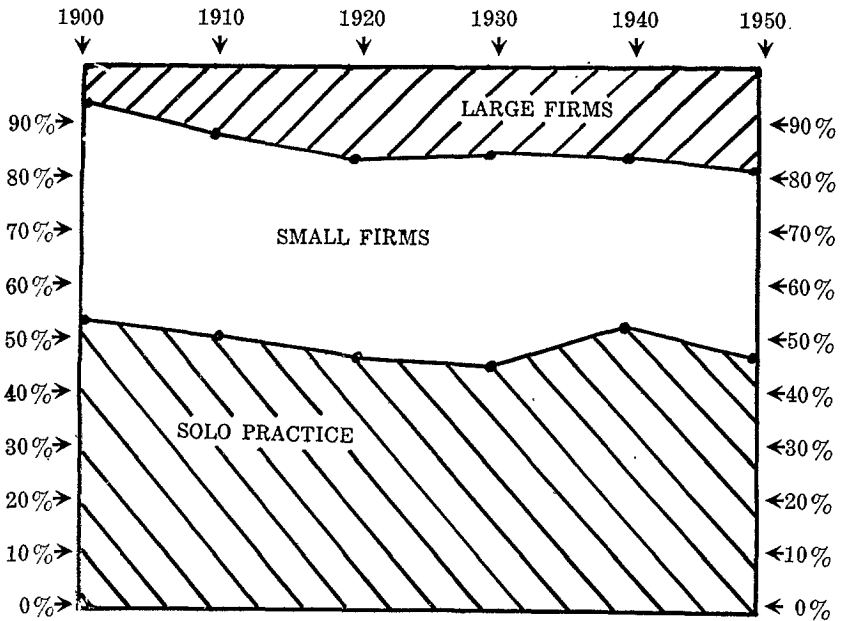


¹ Figures expressed in thousands.

Of those practising in association with others, most are in small combinations of two or three. However, in Montreal and Toronto half of those in partnership are in firms composed of four or more. This proportion drops to two-fifths in other cities over 100,000, to one-third in cities of less than 100,000, and less than one-tenth in towns of under 25,000.

Over the years there have been minor fluctuations in the number of lawyers practising alone, but the general pattern seems constant (see Chart VIII). Within the group practising together, there has been a gradual growth of the large firm — one with four or more lawyers. Only 7% of all lawyers were in such firms in 1900, compared with nearly 20% today. At the same time the average number of lawyers in these large firms has increased from slightly less than five per firm to six per firm.

CHART VIII

Distribution of Lawyers by Various Types of Firm 1900-1950

During the depression the proportion of lawyers in small firms was reduced, and the number of those practising alone increased proportionately — break-ups no doubt caused by the economic stress of the period. The number of lawyers in large firms, however, remained constant, suggesting that the larger firms have much greater economic stability than do the smaller associations of two or three lawyers.

Among the provinces, the Maritimes seem to be the most independent-minded, with two-thirds of all the lawyers practising alone (see Table XII). In Newfoundland, on the other hand, the lawyers appear to prefer the small group, with 60% of the profession practising in associations of two or three. Toronto has the greatest concentration of large firms. One-third of all lawyers there are associated with firms of four or more. In Winnipeg the number is almost as high.

King's Counsel

Three out of every ten lawyers in Canada have been raised to the dignity of King's Counsel (see Table XIII). Fifty years ago scarcely more than one in ten was entitled to wear silk. There

was some indication in the first years of the century that the number of King's Counsel would be restricted. In the Maritimes the proportion of King's Counsel was actually reduced for a time, but for the last twenty years there has been a steady rise in the number appointed. The sole exception to this trend is in British Columbia where only 7% of the lawyers are King's Counsel. There are fewer King's Counsel there today than there were ten years ago, although the total number of lawyers has substantially increased. There have been practically no appointments during that period. However, recent legislation in that province now provides for a new method of appointment — removing it from political control — and a small increase in the number of King's Counsel will probably result.

Various factors appear to influence the selection of lawyers who are chosen for this office. Naturally enough, experience seems to be the most important. 70% of all those in practice more than forty years are King's Counsel, together with 60% of those in practice from thirty to forty years, and 50% of those in practice twenty to thirty years. Lawyers in larger cities are more frequently appointed. 33% of all practitioners in Montreal and Toronto are King's Counsel, but only 25% of those in towns of under 5,000. In most provinces, lawyers in the larger cities get preferential treatment (see Table XIV). Manitoba and Ontario seem to distribute the favour more equitably. Similarly, the lawyer in the large firm is more frequently recognized: 37% of those in large offices are King's Counsel, together with 31% of those in small offices, but only 25% of those practising alone have been appointed.

Women Lawyers

A word should be said about the place of women in the profession. Fifty years ago only one woman was shown in the Canadian Law List. The first real growth in numbers came after 1920 when the women increased from 8 to 26 during a ten-year period. This figure more than doubled in the following ten years, and has doubled again since 1940, so that today there are 113 listed in the Law List. There may be a few more who, because of marriage or other reasons, have withdrawn their names from the active list. Of those shown, however, almost two-thirds are to be found in one province, Ontario. The remainder are scattered in small groups across the country. Proportionately, Canada has slightly fewer women lawyers than the United States, where roughly 2% of the profession are women.

Law Society Records

On the whole, we are fortunate in Canada that all the provincial law societies keep reasonably accurate lists of our practising lawyers, though the systems employed by the various provinces differ considerably. Some law societies charge a smaller fee for those not in active practice, while others place non-active lawyers on a dormant list, permitting them to resume practice at any time by paying the current year's fee. In Quebec, a list is published every May of those advocates who are in good standing at that time. Some Quebec advocates in smaller centres refrain from paying their fee until they are required to appear in court. If they do not have to conduct any litigation during the year, they do not pay the fee and thus effect a minor saving.

Non-payment of fees is regarded with varying degrees of severity. In Manitoba, members are struck off the list on January 31st if fees for the current year are not paid. In Ontario, delinquent members are only suspended from practice after a year. In Nova Scotia, where fees for rural members are merely nominal, some names have remained on the roll for as long as ten years without any fees being received.

Another difficulty in examining the rolls is the paucity of information they contain. A lawyer who is called to the bar under the name of J. R. D. Smith may subsequently practise as David Smith, but no change is made in the rolls. If he gives his home address so that reports may be sent to him there, in many cases his business address or the name of the firm with which he is associated is not shown. Thus, Mr. Smith may appear to be a solo practitioner in suburban Weston, but he could well be in fact a partner in a large law firm in Toronto, or the general manager of a trust company.

These minor deficiencies could be remedied with little effort. Complete and up-to-date records of the profession would be of great assistance to lawyers themselves and the public generally. It is only when adequate records are available that a full and wholly accurate analysis of the present status and future requirements of the profession can be made.

TABLE I—Lawyers in Canada, 1950

PROVINCE	Lawyers in good standing within province of enrolment	Lawyers in private practice	Lawyers resident outside province of enrolment
Newfoundland	65	55	...
Prince Edward Island	47	41	5
Nova Scotia	427	269	...
New Brunswick	274	214	15
Quebec	1841 893	1710 893	59 ...
Ontario	3548	2943	111
Manitoba	566	459	71
Saskatchewan	391	371	42
Alberta	467	430	15
British Columbia	791	668	4
Yukon & N.W.T.	6	6	...
TOTALS	9316	8059	322

TABLE II—Number of Persons Per Lawyer in Canada, 1900-1950¹
(Estimated Population of Canada in 1950: 13,549,000)

PROVINCE	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950
Newfoundland	5,022	6,221	8,219	5,490	6,224	6,327
Prince Edward Island	2,458	2,130	2,461	1,913	2,112	2,292
Nova Scotia	1,436	1,777	2,155	2,259	2,205	2,397
New Brunswick	1,421	1,786	2,268	1,991	2,006	2,411
Quebec ²	1,951	2,147	2,408	2,322	2,064	2,273
Ontario	1,209	1,614	1,685	1,434	1,438	1,498
Manitoba	1,712	1,527	1,396	1,287	1,483	1,694
Saskatchewan	3,176	1,816	1,749	2,078	2,320
Alberta	2,138	1,310	1,466	1,634	2,025
British Columbia	925	1,509	1,006	1,255	1,429	1,667
Dominion ^{2 3}	1,455	1,837	1,757	1,664	1,698	1,890

¹ Lawyers in private practice only. When all lawyers enrolled in law societies, all Quebec notaries, and all judges are included, the ratio for the entire Dominion is one lawyer for every 1,395.

² Not including notaries in the Province of Quebec. Including such notaries in 1950 there is one lawyer for every 1,494 people in Quebec, and one for every 1,681 in the Dominion.

³ Includes Newfoundland lawyers for 1950 only.

TABLE III—*Relation of Distribution of Lawyers to General Population and Provincial Wealth, 1949*

PROVINCE	Percentage of total Dominion taxes collected	Percentage of total number of lawyers ¹	Percentage of total general population
Prince Edward Island	0.2	0.5	0.7
Nova Scotia	2.	3.2	4.8
New Brunswick	1.8	2.8	3.8
Quebec	27.3	32.2	28.7
Ontario	45.5	36.5	32.6
Manitoba	4.8	4.6	5.7
Saskatchewan	2.4	4.5	6.4
Alberta	4.2	5.3	6.4
British Columbia	11.5	8.8	8.2

¹ Includes Quebec notaries.

TABLE IV—*Distribution of Lawyers in Canada by Size of Municipality, 1900 - 1950*

YEAR	Total no. of lawyers	Over 500,000 %	100,000-500,000 %	25,000-100,000 %	5,000-25,000 %	2,500-5,000 %	Under 2,500 %
1900	3,743		27	18	18	14	23
1910	3,962		31	21	21	9	19
1920	5,032	26	17	17	17	7	16
1930	6,286	29	21	14	16	5	15
1940	6,813	32	19	16	14	6	13
1950	7,166	33	24	12	14	6	10
Urban Population ¹		25	17	18	19	7	14

¹ The percentage distribution of urban population is based on data contained in the 1941 Census Report. No later figures are available.

TABLE V—*Lawyers Practising in Towns of Less Than 1,000 Population, 1950*

PROVINCE	Number	% of Total
Newfoundland	2	4.
Prince Edward Island.	3	7.
Nova Scotia	13	5.
New Brunswick	17	8.
Quebec (advocates only)	20	1.
Ontario	43	1.5
Manitoba	60	13.
Saskatchewan	95	26.
Alberta	49	11.
British Columbia	27	4.
Dominion	329	5.

TABLE VI—*Population Shift, 1900-1940*

	1900	1940
TOWNS UNDER 5,000		
Total population.....	2,042,415	1,302,541
Number of lawyers.....	1,378	1,257
Number of people per lawyer.....	1,482	1,036
CITIES OVER 100,000		
Total population.....	544,157	2,645,133
Number of lawyers.....	1,014	3,503
Number of people per lawyer.....	537	755

TABLE VII—*Distribution of Lawyers by Size of Municipality According to Experience*

	Over 500,000	100,000- 500,000	25,000- 100,000	5,000- 25,000	2,500- 5,000	Under 2,500
Total number of lawyers	2,399	1,707	867	1,030	431	732
% called before 1920	19	26	20	19	20	28
% called 1920 - 1940	53	45	49	50	57	52
% called after 1940	28	29	31	31	23	20

TABLE VIII—Increase of Lawyers in Private Practice, 1949 - 1950

CITY	Over 500,000		100,000-500,000		25,000-100,000		5,000-25,000		2,500-5,000		Under 2,500		Totals		Grads. ready for call to Bar 1949
	New Grads.	Net ¹ Change	New Grads.	Net ¹ Change	New Grads.	Net ¹ Change	New Grads.	Net ¹ Change	New Grads.	Net ¹ Change	New Grads.	Net ¹ Change	Grads.	Net	
Alta.			14	9				-2			2	-2	16	5	17
B.C.			43	31	5	1	8	4	2	2	15	16	73	54	63
Man.			7	-3			3	2			5	4	15	3	45
N.B.					3		5	5	1			-2	9	3	25
Nfld.								2						2	
N.S.					10	6	4	3	3	3	4	3	21	15	53
Ont.	92	66	39	26	31	28	27	17	8	4	8	7	205	148	218
P.E.I.							1	-7					1	-7	
Que.	84	48	21	20	4		8	5		-2	1	1	118	72	179
Sask.					10	10	6	2		-2	1	-5	17	5	31
N.W.T.											2		2		
Dom.	176	114	124	83	63	45	62	31	14	5	38	22	477	300	631

¹Net change is arrived at by deducting the number of deaths and retirements in the profession from the number of new graduates entering practice in the various sizes of municipalities.

TABLE IX—*Distribution of Lawyers by Experience, 1950*

Called to the Bar:	Before 1909 %	1900-09 %	1910-19 %	1920-29 %	1930-39 %	1940-49 %	Total Number of Lawyers
Newfoundland			12.7	29.1	27.3	30.9	55
P.E.I.	2.4	12.2	9.8	17.1	19.5	39.	41
Nova Scotia	3.7	5.2	9.7	17.8	27.9	35.3	269
New Brunswick	2.8	5.6	10.7	18.7	29.9	31.8	214
Quebec	1.8	5.2	9.4	21.1	34.	28.2	1,710
Ontario	3.1	3.3	11.3	28.2	24.9	28.1	2,943
Manitoba	2.2	10.2	22.4	22.2	16.1	25.1	459
Saskatchewan	.5	6.7	34.2	32.3	8.6	17.5	371
Alberta	.2	7.2	26.	28.6	14.7	22.6	430
B.C.	1.6	5.5	21.6	17.5	19.6	33.2	668
N.W.T.	16.7	16.7			16.6	50.	6
Dominion	2.3	5.0	14.5	24.6	24.8	28.	7,166

TABLE X—*Age of Canadian Lawyers Compared to Age Distribution of General Male Population Over the Age of 25*

(Based on the assumption that those lawyers who graduated in 1940-49 are aged 25-34, etc.)

Age Group	General Male Population	Percent	Canadian Lawyers	Percent
25-34	999,000	28.6	2,007	28.
35-44	830,000	23.7	1,778	24.8
45-54	664,000	19.	1,763	24.6
55-64	540,000	15.4	1,038	14.5
65-74	325,000	9.3	359	5.
75 and over	144,000	4.	164	2.3

TABLE XI—*Distribution of Lawyers by Size of Firm, 1900-1950*

YEAR	Solo %	Small Firm %	Large Firm %	Total No. of Lawyers
1900	53.4	39.7	6.9	3,743
1910	50.6	36.9	12.5	3,962
1920	47.	36.4	16.6	5,032
1930	45.8	38.5	15.7	6,236
1940	52.8	31.3	15.9	6,818
1950	47.4	33.4	19.2	7,166

TABLE XII—*Distribution of Lawyers by Size of Firm by Provinces, 1950*

PROVINCE	Solo %	Small Firm %	Large Firm %	Total No. of Lawyers
Newfoundland	29.1	60.	10.9	55
P. E. I.	75.6	24.4		41
Nova Scotia	63.6	26.4	10.	269
New Brunswick	67.8	27.6	4.7	214
Quebec	49.3	33.3	17.4	1,710
Ontario	43.	34.3	22.7	2,943
Manitoba	46.4	30.3	23.3	459
Saskatchewan	55.8	36.9	7.3	371
Alberta	45.6	32.6	21.9	430
British Columbia	45.8	32.9	21.3	668
Dominion	47.4	33.4	19.2	7,166

TABLE XIII—*Proportion of King's Counsel to Total Number of Lawyers, 1900-1950*

PROVINCE	1900 %	1910 %	1920 %	1930 %	1940 %	1950 %
Newfoundland	20	5	31	31	29	33
Prince Edward Island	21	9	31	33	33	42
Nova Scotia	14	11	43	43	38	21
New Brunswick	23	9	21	15	16	17
Quebec	14	15	33	32	26	35
Ontario	9	20	14	19	28	32
Manitoba	11	8	12	17	25	26
Saskatchewan		5	9	20	42	35
Alberta		6	13	17	29	34
British Columbia	10	12	8	9	9	7
Yukon & N. W. Territories	9	7		33	60	33
Dominion	12	15	18	21	27	29

TABLE XIV—*Proportion of Lawyers Practising in Leading Provincial Cities who are K.C.'s Compared with Proportion of K.C.'s in Smaller Communities*

NOVA SCOTIA		NEW BRUNSWICK		QUEBEC	
Halifax	24%	Saint John	23%	Quebec City	39%
Towns under 5,000	18%	Towns under 5,000	15%	Montreal	35%
				Towns under 5,000	33%
ONTARIO		MANITOBA		SASKATCHEWAN	
Toronto	32%	Winnipeg	27%	Regina	44%
Towns under 5,000	30%	Towns under 5,000	27%	Saskatoon	33%
				Towns under 5,000	26%
ALBERTA		BRITISH COLUMBIA			
Edmonton	40%	Vancouver	7%		
Calgary	37%	Towns under 5,000	4%		
Towns under 5,000	21%				