

# THE CANADIAN BAR REVIEW

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## CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION.

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE OF SIR JAMES AIKINS, K.C., HONORARY LIFE  
PRESIDENT, TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

As Honorary Life President of the Canadian Bar Association, and on behalf of The Conference of Representatives of the Governing Bodies of the Legal Profession in the Provinces of Canada, I wish the lawyers of Canada a Very Happy New Year—a larger wish still—a new era of profitable life and progress. That, said sincerely as it is, will be taken as a cheery word to begin with. Yet as faith without works is dead, so that wish without a follow up of helpfulness and useful service to the members of the profession where that is possible will exhale itself when the enthusiasm of the festive season is over. As far as proverbs can be humanly universal this Danish one seems to be: "Fine words without deeds go not far". Carlyle's statement in one interpretation of it is applicable, but far distant in another: "No one shall look for effectual help to another but each shall rest content with what help he can afford himself". He was thinking of the isolated individual not of a group unit or collective body as is the Canadian legal profession in which we are everyone members one of another. That implies unity in thinking and co-ordination in action. To create those, we have the statutory governing bodies in each Province. To give national concerted movement to those governments the Canadian Bar Association organized The Conference of Representatives. It is young but it has reached the stage when it has teeth and a will. What can it do to implement its Christmas and New Year's wish? It cannot give brains or common sense or learning or industry or character to the individual law student or lawyer, those must ever be for personal attainment. But the governing bodies all represented in the Conference can safe-

guard the profession from weakness within and from welchers without, by watchful effort to prevent those of poor mental or moral timber or lax in habit from getting into the profession. It is a difficult task to sift the moral calibre of the individual before entrance and quite as difficult to thereafter rid the profession of undesirables—yet both can be done, and there are no more capable men to do it than our elected governors. I am confident what they can do they will do. They are conscious of other difficulties facing them in their endeavour to create for the lawyers of Canada more suitable preparation and better conditions for their work and practice in our fast changing methods of modern life and business and in an effort to bring about a higher appreciation of their qualifications and services by the citizens generally. Once the people clearly understand the importance of the trained and dependable lawyer in our greatest function of national government, justice and its application, without which there can be no peace or security of person or property within our borders, then they will as heartily uphold and help the profession of the law and its members as we are aspiring and working to serve them and guard them against the reproach and disaster of disregarded and broken laws. Can we not all get some inspiration and encouragement from Kipling's words—

“Go to your work and be strong, halting not in your ways,  
Baulking the end half won for an instant dole of praise;  
Stand to your work and be wise—certain of sword and pen,  
Who are neither children nor gods but men in a world of men.”

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NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE OF THE HONOURABLE WALLACE NESBITT, K.C.,  
THE PRESIDENT, TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The Editor of the CANADIAN BAR REVIEW reminds me that since the foundation of the REVIEW the practice has prevailed to publish in the January number a message from the President of the Association to the Members. I was, unfortunately, unable to be present at the last most successful annual meeting, and my first thought is to thank the Members of the Association for the honour conferred upon me in electing me President. I have also been out of the country until a few days ago, and, therefore, have little to add to what was reported at the annual meeting. I have, however, had the benefit of a conference with Sir James Aikins and Mr. Coleman,

who have outlined work for the coming year which should be of real value to the Members of the Bar, particularly the work of the Conference of Representatives of the Governing Bodies of the Legal Profession in the Provinces.

I can only pledge myself to endeavour to justify your appointment. To my mind the Association should become a strong, active body, a real influence in the life of the country and a force in forwarding the interests and best traditions of the profession. To do this the Provincial Associations must actively interest themselves in local matters, and by co-operation with the main body make of it all that has been hoped, and not be content with merely successful annual meetings and the benefits derived from knowledge of each other and mutual problems, but be an active, continuous force for our common good, and a real guiding influence in national affairs.

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#### JUSTICE.

Slowly from savage fears and cruelties  
Man made his spirit free. Then tribal strife,  
The clan's wild vengeance, taking life for life,  
Yet guarding life, ruled man in place of these.  
Ruled till the growing mind within him sees  
The wider right, and sheaths the kinsman's knife  
For keener law, which, in the quarrels rife,  
'Twixt man and man, gives just but blind decrees.

Not this the end. Man's spirit stays not here,  
Content with law's blind right. No, striving still  
Toward justice, who can say what nobler will,  
What kindlier right, may rule; what vision clear,  
Freed from the past's inheritance of fear,  
May see the task of justice, and fulfil?

KATHARINE L. JOHNSTON.