

CONFERENCE ON UNIFORMITY OF LEGISLATION IN CANADA.

A statement of the work of the thirteenth annual meeting of the Conference of Commissioners on Uniformity of Legislation in Canada must, of necessity, appear rather prosaic when contrasted with a story of the fifteenth annual meeting of the Canadian Bar Association at which there were distinguished guests from England, Scotland, Ireland, France and the United States. This statement, however, should be of interest to the members of the Association because, notwithstanding the unpropitious quality which superstition would attach to the thirteenth annual meeting, real progress towards the promotion of uniformity of legislation in Canada was achieved by the Conference.

The Conference assembled at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto at 10 a.m. on Monday, August 11th, under the presidency of Mr. Isaac Pitblado, K.C. The attendance of twenty commissioners constituted a record. In four days, eleven sessions were held. The commissioners were welcomed to Ontario by the Honourable N. W. Rowell, K.C., and the Honourable W. H. Price, K.C., Attorney-General of Ontario, who emphasised the importance of the work in which the Conference is engaged. Mr. Pitblado, in his presidential address, paid a tribute to the Attorneys-General of the various Provinces of Canada for their continued interest in the work of the Conference, and expressed the hope that its work would commend itself more and more to them as the years pass. He also remarked that "the members of the Conference have no axes to grind. Their desire is to see that the best possible provincial legislation is enacted upon matters which affect the commercial business and property interests of the citizens of Canada, and that such legislation should, as far as possible, be of a uniform character in the various provinces." In an interview which Mr. Pitblado gave to the *Toronto Globe* on August 12th, he reiterated the statement, which he made in his presidential address of 1929, that "it is not the object of this Conference to attempt to interfere in any way with the form of jurisprudence peculiar to any province and more particularly with the civil code system of Quebec."

Dr. W. S. Scott, on behalf of the Alberta Commissioners, presented to the Conference a draft Limitation of Actions Act which he had prepared in the light of instructions from the Conference,

and the revision of earlier drafts by the Conference at previous meetings. The consideration of this draft Act occupied most of the time of the Toronto meeting, and it was resolved that the draft Act as revised be printed and that copies be sent to all members of the Conference, and that if within two months thereafter the revised draft be not disapproved by one-fourth of the members, who have attended the present meeting, it should be deemed to be approved by the Conference and should be recommended to the Legislatures of the several provinces of Canada for enactment.

The uniform Conditional Sales Act approved by the Conference in 1922 provides that a conditional sale, as defined in the Act, "shall be evidenced by a writing signed *prior to or at the time of delivery of the goods*. In view of the fact that in some cases, in the remote parts of the provinces, there is difficulty in complying with this provision, the clause was altered so as to read "*signed prior to or at the time of or within ten days after delivery of the goods*." The uniform Act was, for the same reason, also amended by substituting a period of thirty days for that of twenty days after the writing is signed within which a true copy of the writing must be filed with the proper officer.

The Conference, after considering draft sections respecting judicial notice of statutes and proof of state documents, to be inserted in provincial Evidence Acts, as prepared by the New Brunswick Commissioners and Mr. Pineo, resolved that a revised draft of these sections be printed, and that it should be deemed to be approved and should be recommended to the various Legislatures unless one-fourth of the members who attended the meeting disapproved of it within two months after receiving a printed copy of it.

The consideration of a draft Registration of Partnerships Act, as prepared by the Nova Scotia Commissioners, and a draft Foreign Judgments Act, as prepared by the Saskatchewan Commissioners, was deferred until the next meeting of the Conference.

It was reported that the National Committee on Arbitration of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce had communicated with the Secretary and had suggested that the Conference might consider a draft Arbitration Act which the Committee submitted. In view of the importance of the subject of arbitration to the business community and commercial interests, the British Columbia Commissioners were requested to prepare a draft Arbitration Act and to report to the Conference at the next meeting. The matter of registration of corporate securities, which was excepted from the Uniform

Bills of Sale Act and the Uniform Assignment of Book Debts Act, was referred to the Saskatchewan Commissioners, with a view to their submitting to the Conference a draft Registration of Corporate Securities Act.

Mr. Pitblado, who has been President of the Conference for seven years, and Mr. Falconbridge, who has been Secretary of the Conference since its formation in 1918, informed the Conference of their desire to be relieved of the duties of their respective offices. The following officers were elected: President, John D. Falconbridge, K.C.; Vice-President, R. W. Shannon, K.C., Regina; Treasurer, R. Murray Fisher, K.C., Winnipeg; Secretary, Sidney E. Smith, Halifax.

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