

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The years are rolling by and it is with astonishment that one realizes that the sixteenth annual meeting of the Canadian Bar Association has passed into history. Its development during these varied years of prosperity and depression is a great tribute to those few whose breadth of vision and belief in a noble profession made the Association a vital factor in the professional and political life of Canada to-day.

Some ninety miles beyond the grey ramparts of Quebec City on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, the shouldering capes of the Laurentians form a deep bay. Here the waters of the Murray River join the majestic St. Lawrence on its journey to the sea. Situate on the heights overlooking the river, the Manoir Richelieu stands, a monument of beauty, typical of modern progress in this New World. Reached by boat, train or motor-car through an ever-changing panorama of magnificent scenery tinged with the old and the new, no finer setting could be found for a meeting of the Association. It is the first time in its history that an annual meeting has been held outside the confines of one of our great cities, and it was with some feeling of trepidation that Murray Bay was selected this year. However, that feeling was without cause, and anyone who was fortunate enough to be able to attend will testify to the delightful atmosphere and general feeling of good will which permeated the proceedings. The attendance was excellent, indeed beyond the expectations of those in charge of the arrangements.

Prior to the opening session, the Hotel had been the scene of activity for many days. On Thursday, August 27th, the Commissioners on Uniformity of Legislation in Canada commenced their deliberations after an address of welcome by the President of the Association. Representatives of six out of the eight common law provinces held all-day sessions for five days, considering and revising draft acts preparatory to recommending them for adoption by the legislatures concerned.

On Tuesday, September 1st, the Conference of Governing Bodies of the Legal Profession in Canada was convened. Welcomed in a most charming address by the Honourable Alfred Duranleau, P.C., K.C., M.P., Bâtonnier-General of the Province of Quebec, and Min-

ister of Marine of Canada, the Conference proceeded to the discussion of matters relating to the common welfare of the profession throughout the Dominion. Reports were received upon the subjects of encroachments and the protection of clients from defaulting solicitors, both matters of vital importance.

At noon the members attending the various meetings were the guests of Mr. Harvey J. Sims, K.C., of Kitchener, Ontario, President of the Conference of the Governing Bodies, at a luncheon given in the Hotel.

Tuesday afternoon the semi-annual meeting of the Council of the Association was held and disposed of many matters which had arisen since the February meeting.

In the evening, Mr. L. S. St. Laurent, K.C., LL.D., the President of the Association, presided at the President's annual dinner to members of Council and the guests of the Association present.

On Wednesday morning, His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, The Right Honourable The Earl of Bessborough, G.C.M.G., officially opened the sixteenth annual meeting of The Canadian Bar Association. Seated on the platform with him on that occasion were Mr. L. S. St. Laurent, K.C., LL.D., who presided, the Honourable Alfred Duranleau, Honourable Maurice Dupré, Honourable Mr. Justice Cannon, Lord Duncannon, Mr. A. Lascelles and Mr. A. Cimon.

His Excellency chose as his theme "The importance of the Law to the Community" and indicated the manner in which the cohesion of the body politic and the stability which naturally follows such cohesion could be maintained through the assistance of the Bar. He said:

"For it seems to me axiomatic that such stability can only be attained by strengthening that regard for law and order which is the most distinctive characteristic of our people; by insuring that the law which is the very skeleton of the body politic conforms to the social and economic needs of the community; and by harmonizing the development and growth of the law with general social and economic progress."

He also made reference to the necessity for constant and unremitting attention to those phases of the administration of justice which touch the lives of the masses of the people and stressed the fact that so-called petty justice should be administered with the traditional fairness and efficiency that have always characterized matters usually regarded as being of major importance. The underprivileged should be able to obtain as efficient legal assistance as can

those with greater resources. This would, in turn, prove an effective means of strengthening respect for law and order.

The President expressed the appreciation of the Association to His Excellency for his attendance and address. He then proposed to the meeting that His Excellency should be asked to accept Honorary Membership in the Association and the proposal received a standing and unanimous vote.

The Honourable Maurice Dupré, K.C., M.P., Solicitor General for Canada, on behalf of the summer residents of Murray Bay, formally welcomed the members and distinguished guests, stressing the friendly relationship which now exists between the two great races composing the Canadian nation.

Maître A. Cimon, of La Malbaie, tendered a formal welcome on behalf of the municipalities of La Malbaie, Cap a L'Aigle and Pointe-au-Pic, and Mr. A. H. Macneill, K.C., of British Columbia, responded on behalf of the visiting members.

Following the official opening and the various addresses of welcome, the Chair was taken by the Honourable Mr. Justice Cannon. Mr. St. Laurent delivered his presidential address. He dealt chiefly with two important matters—Canada's economic position and the constitutional situation in the light of the passing of the Statute of Westminster. He treated his subjects exhaustively, and, while there may be, and probably is, some difference of opinion amongst the members of the Association as to the points dealt with, the address was instructive and well worthy of careful study and consideration when it appears in full in the report of the Annual Proceedings.

Following the presidential address, Mr. John T. Hackett, K.C., M.P., of Montreal, proposed the adoption of a memorial resolution in connection with the death of the late Right Honourable Charles J. Doherty, K.C., LL.D., D.C.L., one of the staunchest supporters of the Association in its early days. This resolution was aptly seconded by Mr. G. H. Aikins, K.C., Winnipeg.

At noon, the Honourable Sir Francois Lemieux, Chief Justice of the Superior Court, Quebec, presided at an Association luncheon which was attended by His Excellency the Governor-General and his son, Lord Duncannon. The speaker for the occasion was Maître Fernand Payen, Bâtonnier of the Bar of Paris. His address dealt with "The Origin, Progress and Present Composition of the Bar of Paris." Sketching its development from the year 1342, Maître Payen made special reference to the present system of legal education in Paris. Students are required to put in a year of practical training immediately following a three-year university course and

during that time are obliged to give their services free to poor and indigent litigants. He declared that approximately 100,000 cases were thus handled last year.

At the conclusion of this address, Mr. John D. Falconbridge, K.C., Dean of Osgoode Hall Law School, proposed that Maître Fernand Payen be made an Honorary Member of the Association, which was enthusiastically accepted by the meeting.

The afternoon session was devoted to the receiving of reports and to an interesting and instructive discussion of the report of the Committee on Legal Education. Sir Lynden Macassey, our English guest, joined in the discussion and made valuable contributions to the debate.

There being no formal dinner in the evening, members and guests were at liberty to take part in private functions, following which they gathered in the Assembly Hall to hear an address by Sir Lynden Macassey, leader of the Parliamentary Bar of Great Britain. The text of the address which will be found in the report of the Annual Proceedings dealt largely with industrial conditions as they exist in Great Britain to-day. The speaker stressed the fact that nationalization of basic industries has now become an economic demand and not merely a political one, and that some alternative must be found for the strike as a method of forcing settlement of industrial disputes if industry is to prosper. Sir Lynden brought friendly greetings to the Association from the Lord Chancellor of England, the Attorney-General and the Chairman of the General Council of the Bar of England.

On motion of the Honourable Chief Justice Chisholm, of Nova Scotia, Sir Lynden Macassey was elected an Honorary Member of the Association.

A reception and dance followed the close of Sir Lynden's address.

Thursday was devoted largely to the reception and discussion of reports, the chief interest being found in the reports of the Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice and the Special Committee on Bankruptcy Law. Both these subjects dealt with matters not only of great importance to the profession but to the public generally. Certain concrete suggestions contained in the report on bankruptcy law have created great interest throughout the whole Dominion and it is hoped that many of the abuses which are apparently present can be done away with. Reference is made to this same subject in the report of Council, where the opinion is expressed that in the interest of commercial morality it is desirable

that greater emphasis should be placed upon the serious character of bankruptcy proceedings.

At the luncheon presided over by the Honourable W. H. Price, K.C., Attorney-General of Ontario, Mr. Herbert F. Goodrich, Representative of the American Bar Association and Vice-President and Dean of the Law School, University of Pennsylvania, delivered an interesting and instructive address on the work of the American Law Institute and its efforts to codify and unify the multiplicity of judicial decisions which confront the American practitioner, in such a manner as to limit the necessity of citing cases in support of a principle of law.

The Annual Dinner took place in the main dining room, while at the same time the ladies were entertained at dinner in an adjoining room as the guests of Madame St. Laurent, wife of the President. The Honourable Honoré Mercier, Minister of Lands and Forests in the Quebec Government, brought greetings from that body to the Association and other speakers included Maître Fernand Payen, Percy E. Nobbs of the Architectural Institute of Canada, Sir Lynden Macassey, Dean Goodrich and the Honourable N. W. Rowell, K.C.

The formal programme of the Association this year was confined to two days, a departure from the practice of the past, the third day being devoted to golf and other social pursuits.

Friday morning saw the last business done when the meeting of the new Council was held. Mr. L. S. St. Laurent, who had been unanimously re-elected to the Presidency, presided at the Council meeting. Authority was given to him and the Dominion Vice-President, Mr. Rowell, to complete arrangements for next year's meeting, which will be held in the West. It is hoped the name of the distinguished guests from overseas will be made known at an early date, as well as the place of meeting.

Reference has already been made to many of our guests, but, in addition to those named, we were pleased to have with us Mr. Charles A. Boston of New York, President of the American Bar Association, who attended not in his official capacity, but purely as a matter of personal interest. Mr. Boston was duly elected as an Honorary Member of the Association. Then, too, it was our pleasure to have in attendance Sir Alexander Lawrence, Bart., of Great Britain. Sir Alexander is a former Assistant Chief Solicitor to the Treasury and took an active part in the meeting.

It would not be fitting to close this hurried account without reference to the courtesy and efficiency of Mr. Evans, the Manager of the Manoir Richelieu, and his staff. While the Manoir is not a

convention hotel in the ordinary sense no inconvenience was felt because of this and all arrangements were carried out in a manner which left no room for criticism.

To those who played golf the pleasure of their stay was accentuated by a visit to the Manoir Richelieu Golf Course. Built upon the shoulder of a great mountain it affords an unsurpassed view of the great St. Lawrence. For miles and miles, as far as eye can see, its mighty expanse of water stretches before one. Surrounded by the majestic Laurentian mountains its setting is a golfer's dream or nightmare, depending upon his game. Uphill and down dale, over hazards natural and artificial, down fairways flanked by "the forest primeval," golf of every kind and description can be found. As one of the guests remarked, "It is a bit of Switzerland transplanted."

In conclusion, it can be said that for charm and pleasant surroundings, no better place could have been found. One could forget the strife and turmoil of every day life. The depression and its ensuing problems were put aside for the time being and personal claims and worries forgotten in the enjoyment of ideal surroundings and the renewal of old friendships. Much was accomplished of a practical and valuable nature, the subject matters discussed were of great importance and conclusions reached will have an important bearing on our national life. Once again the East met the West and to those of us from the West it was a pleasure, and we return to our homes with a feeling that our problems are not local and that the best minds of the country are being turned to their solution.

So now we return to our daily tasks more content to carry on after our brief but pleasant sojourn with our brethren in the law with the hope that the seventeenth annual meeting in whichever Western City it is held will see a good representation from the great Eastern centres of population in order that the West may return in full measure the hospitality which has been so bountifully bestowed by the East at the last three meetings.

T. W. LAIDLAW.

Winnipeg.