

# Editorial

## Birthday Greetings

This year the "Journal" is celebrating its fifth birthday. The original creators and their successors overcame numerous obstacles to bring it into existence and to keep it in existence. The school is small and the finances limited but the resulting achievement is large by comparison. The successive editors and their staffs have contributed greatly to its growth and have left the results of their work to be passed on to those who follow. Many of the mechanical difficulties such as printing, circulation and advertising have been smoothed away to some extent. The financial situation has improved. These improvements allow greater stress to be placed on the selection and refinement of the material which goes to make up the "Journal."

However the "Journal" is still a young child and although it has acquired a distinct form in its development, many difficulties remain to be ironed out and much remains to be desired. The object should be to dispose of these difficulties and develop a publication with top qualifications. This can be accomplished only over a period of time as it lacks the touch of the professional periodical. But it can be accomplished!

A semi-professional periodical is envisaged covering the entire province and in due time even the four Maritime provinces. The term "semi-professional" is used because it is felt that the law school or schools as the case may be, is the best source from which such a publication should emanate. An effort such as the one proposed would be unique in that it could concentrate on matters which are local and which would not otherwise receive notoriety. It would illuminate and profit the bar locally and contribute generally to the profession on a national scale.

These possibilities are presented to show what could be accomplished in the future if the present efforts are channeled in the proper directions. However for the present, endeavours must be confined to the improvement of the existing entity. After acquiring a certain degree of perfection these proposals may then be considered.

To attain this degree of perfection a whole-hearted co-operation of both the students and the members of the bar is required. Contributions from barristers throughout the province would enhance the quality of the material used and add a certain ingredient of maturity which the student is usually unable to achieve. The man in practice has had the opportunity of seeing how the principles and theories with which he became familiar in law school are applied in

the courts, and in everyday experience in his office. He is faced with problems every day; naturally, interest is aroused and he resorts to research to solve them. If he should consider the point to be of wide interest, the next step is to merely concretize his thoughts and efforts onto paper and thus develop his own thinking and skill and at the same time give the benefit of his work to the profession at large. It is not suggested that lawyers devote much time to the writing of articles but it is well known that many interesting points come up for consideration which will particularly intrigue a certain man, and it is this type of topic on which he should write. What practitioner has not said to himself, "this is an interesting question, I would like to write something on it?" The trouble is that in the majority of cases he does not carry out his wish.

The student on the other hand should likewise take an active part in the publication of the "Journal." True he is limited by his ignorance but there are fields open to him such as case notes, and narrow points of law, which do not require the concentrated research and know-how of the more experienced writer. Here is his opportunity to develop his skill which will surely be of value to him in whatever field he may later chose to enter. By the time he has reached his graduating year he should be competent enough to attempt a major article.

The profession as a whole has been accused of an inaptitude in the field of writing, preferring to leave the burden to the academic lawyer. If this criticism is justified, steps should be taken to correct the situation, for the practical view of the practitioner is important in counter-balancing the detachment of the academic thus giving a more realistic result.

It is hoped that the "Journal" may, on its fifth birthday look forward to a life of growth and development brought about by a close co-operation between barristers and students both showing a genuine interest for its continued well-being.

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