

of their difficulties, not in the hand-outs of a paternalistic Quebec or Ontario, but in the human achievements of a superior people, who can take the lead, afford the initiative, in those technical developments which will enrich their natural resources and make possible the devolution to these Provinces of the industries which already have become over-centralized and require only intelligent planning and direction to be drawn in this direction. In this task, once more, the University of New Brunswick has its traditional role. As the Founders, whom tonight we praise, had faith, so still must we. A citizenry, rich in the traditional culture of the humanities, resistant to the yahooism of a commercial continent, and imbued with the empirical sense, served by a great institution dedicated to this tradition and determined to provide the experimental knowledge necessary to the development of the skilled arts and the intelligent uses of the resources of our land, such a citizenry is our greatest resource, worth, as our Founders knew, far more than all the wealth of the pre-Cambrian shield. We have a great people, and a great tradition. The times are on our side. The luck of modern technology, which so long was set against us, has shifted. Perhaps the shift is not great, but it was the faith of our Founders that we should develop and use the skills of modern science and the wisdom of the ancients to win our place on this continent. To that task, this University is dedicated. Today, as much as ever in the long past, the demand upon the men and women of this University is urgent. It is not to the luck or good fortune of geography, nor the paternalistic charity of others, that our Founders bade us look for aid, but to the resources within ourselves, to the skill, the knowledge and the wisdom, that disciplined learning alone can bring.

REVISION OF THE STATUTES

It was with joy that the legal profession heard that the Attorney-General was taking steps to have a consolidation and revision of the New Brunswick Statutes.

The last revision, which was completed in 1927 under the chairmanship of the late Wendell P. Jones, K.C., came into force on the 16th day of February, 1928. That revision consisted of 209 Chapters or Acts, and since then over eleven hundred Public Acts have been passed by the Legislature. Of course, many of these Acts are temporary in their nature, such as those authorizing borrowing. A great many of them are Acts amending former statutes, but not a few deal with absolutely new material, particularly in the way of social legislation and in the matter of standardization of certain industries, labour relations, marketing, etc.

It is not the intention this time to issue a Royal Commission for the purpose of consolidation, but the work will be done by the Attorney-General's Department, which now has

added to it Mr. Horace A. Porter, K.C., to supervise the work. Mr. Porter, in addition to having been in active legal practice since 1911, has, for the last twelve years, been one of New Brunswick's representatives on the Conference of Commissioners on Uniformity of Legislation, and, consequently, has had experience that will be valuable in the work of revision.

The work of revising may be roughly grouped under three headings:—

(1) To consolidate the many amendments which have been made to the various Acts.

(2) To modernize the language used and bring it into line with the rules of drafting which have been adopted by the Commissioners on Uniformity of Legislation, and have been generally approved by the profession.

(3) While there is no power in the committee to amend the present law or to create new law, it is of course open to them to draw the attention of the Government to existing legislation and to suggest changes of policy. Whether these suggestions are adopted or not must remain with the Government.

Of particular interest to the profession will be the issue of the Statutes as revised. The Commissioners on Uniformity, in addition to formulating rules of drafting, have also had under consideration the preparation of Statute books, and, doubtless, some of their recommendations will be followed in the printing of the new Statutes. One recommendation is that the Statutes be arranged in alphabetical order, according to the main subject matter of the Act. This practice permits the use of a running head at the top of each page and makes reference to the Statute books somewhat easier. One does not have to refer to the index to find a particular Statute, but has simply to look for it in its alphabetical order. While the need of an index by which to find any particular Act will thus be lessened, we are assured that the index to the new Statutes will be more complete than the one in the 1927 Statutes. It is intended to thoroughly cross-index, and thus to meet the criticisms which have been made of the 1927 index.

Both the revision of 1903 and the revision of 1927 took approximately three years to complete. It is hoped the present revision will be in shape to submit to the Legislature when it meets in 1951. After approval by the Legislature of the suggested revision it will then be necessary to print the Statutes as revised and that will have to be accomplished between 1951 and 1952. The practice in former years was for the Legislature to repeal all former Acts and enact the new Statutes as printed, one copy being signed by the Lieutenant-Governor and the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer and being included among the rolls of that Session.