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# Editorial Notes

The legal profession has been called the greatest of all the professions. Unfortunately today many lawyers think of law not as a profession but merely as a means of making money. Worse still they have grasped the idea of "making the most by doing the least," an idea which has infiltrated into our society to the detriment of the country. A profession should not be regarded merely as a means to make money but rather as a means of providing service to others.

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In England today steps are being taken to provide free legal aid and advice to those who are unable to pay for it. Some Provinces in Canada have already taken such steps. Possibly New Brunswick could augment a system of having law clinics whereby lawyers would be on duty at certain times for the benefit of those who would otherwise be unable to have legal advice.

Too many people have a dread suspicion of the law. For too long a time the law has been held over people's heads as an unknown and threatening force to which only the rich have had recourse. The basic idea of law is to provide equal justice for all, an idea which must be upheld by all members of the legal profession. If steps were taken to provide some type of law clinics doubtless it would benefit the legal profession, and citizens as a whole.

\* \* \* \* \*

Every Citizen of Saint John should be astounded to hear that anyone would consider changing the name of our City. Yet not only has it been considered but the Board of Trade has set up a special committee to investigate the possibility of a change of name. Of all the changes and improvements that are needed the Board of Trade has seen fit to consider the most ill-advised and unwanted one—a change of name.

The name Saint John City has been carried far and wide over the seven seas for almost two centuries; it is a **name** that has **won** a place in history; it is a name to be proud of. Yet there are citizens who have suggested that the City change its name for the vacant reason that there happens to be another City with a somewhat similar yet different name. This City is St. John's, Newfoundland. No doubt the esteemed advocates of the change have lost sight of the fact that for many years there have existed two cities of

## EDITORIAL NOTES

(CONTINUED)

identical name, and neither of them have seen fit to change their name, namely, St. John's, Quebec, and St. John's, Newfoundland. Our own Saint John has continued to exist without any due inconvenience from confusion between the three cities. The Post Office officials have not all become gray-haired because of a faint similarity in the names. ~~Indeed what great calamity brought about this sudden desire to~~ become a City with a different name has yet to make itself known to our Citizenry. The whole Province of New Brunswick should be affronted at the suggestion that the Province holds such a lowly position in trade and commerce that one of the Provincial cities has to change its name because a new Province is being added to the Dominion.

The persons who entertain such thoughts and the Board of Trade should be highly censured for their poor judgement in suggesting such a change. Loyal Citizens of Saint John can only hope that the Special Committee that was set up, was set up only in jest and not as a result of serious thought, by the Board of Trade.

\* \* \* \* \*

The new Saint John City Common Council has started its weekly sessions and once more has started to do its work behind "closed doors" using the phrase "legal session" as the reason.

Many citizens expressed their dissatisfaction at the so-called "legal sessions" during the term of office of the last Council but nevertheless the practice seems to be continuing. It should only be very rarely that business comes up which each and every citizen of Saint John is not entitled to listen to at the Council meetings.

The use of the phrase "legal session," to cover discussion of a variety of subjects which the Common Council does not wish to make public is a most unfair and unauthorized way to withhold from the public information which it is entitled to have.