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LAW AND BUSINESS

Each year the law schools of this Dominion graduate an ever increasing number of young men and women who set forth with great enthusiasm to place their mark on the world as members of an old and venerable profession. The time has come when some people are beginning to wonder if there is a distinct possibility that within the next decade the legal profession will be unable to absorb this growing number of graduates as active members of the bar, for the practise of law is a business, and like any other business it can have too many practising members in its ranks. Whether this possibility has impressed itself on many law students or not it is difficult to ascertain, but one thing is certain, for one reason or another an increasing number of young lawyers are stepping beyond the folds of the bar to make their livelihood. In doing this they are finding that their legal training can be of more value to themselves and to society as a whole.

Teaching, the civil service and municipal affairs all have something to offer, but they are greatly overshadowed by a more prominent field of opportunity, which is in the fast growing panorama of Canadian business. It is not difficult to point to many corporations, large and small, and there find members of the bar in every type of executive position, utilizing their education and experience in helping industry and commerce through the complexity of the modern business pattern. There are a multiplicity of aspects to this growing relation between law and business, in fact it has become quite clear that the proper and efficient functioning of industry and commerce cannot be considered apart from the law of the land.

It is not familiarity with law alone which makes a lawyer a valuable asset to most corporations. In most cases he will possess certain characteristics which his years of training and experience have engrained into him along with a knowledge of the law. To say that the mind which has had the benefit of a thorough legal educa-

tion is necessarily superior to any other type of mind is to be guilty of the worst type of professional egotism. However, it would not be immodest to say that the reasoning of the legal mind is essentially different because of the element it has been trained to use. From his earliest student days, in dealing with the common law, a lawyer is trained and developed in the art of grasping and mustering facts and in weighing conflicting views. This process is also so much a part of modern business that, whether it be in manufacturing, retailing or banking, the lawyer is pre-eminently fitted to take an important place in industry and commerce.

Many young lawyers are being taken into corporations which are finding it more to their advantage to establish full time legal staffs within their own organizations. In this respect one can note, *inter alia*, railroads, banks, trust companies and insurance companies. There are certain disadvantages involved in this type of work, the foremost being a lack of independence. In most cases, however, this is more than offset by the security to be obtained. Many of the most engaging positions are not directly related to the practice of law. It is here that the training instilled into the individual by a legal education can be brought to bear on a large number of problems which are confronting business men every day. A versatility of thought, and a knowledge of the consequences of one's actions will serve to guide the person concerned to many sound decisions.

It is not our intention to deter anyone from an active career before the bar, rather it is our sincerest wish that each and every student in our school will be able to utilize his education to his best advantage. If a practice before the bar is your goal, then it is to be hoped that you will be successful in attaining it. On the other hand, if you are still in doubt as to the manner in which you will finally make your livelihood, remember the bar is only for those who will make it their life.

D. B. D.

CALL JOHN HOWARD

Listening to a criminal case downtown, I was surprised to see Counsel summon his Junior as a witness. This suggested that "something new had been added" until the examination-in-chief disclosed that the gentleman I had mistaken as being of counsel for the defendant was in reality a representative of the John Howard Society, who obviously held a unique and important position.

The objects of the John Howard Society are three; crime prevention, penal reform and the rehabilitation of former prisoners. Almost exclusive emphasis is placed on the last of these classifying the society as a case work rather than a group work agency.

Since provincial penitentiaries make some type of provision for the rehabilitation of their own convicts, the work of the John Howard Society is largely confined to former inmates of federal prisons except when particular cases are referred to them. On leaving a federal penitentiary, the prisoner is given from ten to twenty dollars and is sent to the nearest branch of the National Employment Service in the event that he has no employment already arranged. Even this service is of comparatively recent origin, being the offspring of National Selective Service.

The John Howard Society assists the prisoner in this period of transition in a wide variety of ways. It provides money for current living expenses, for clothing and, if necessary, lends the prisoner sufficient funds to buy the tools required for the trade learned in penitentiary. The society also attempts to provide social contacts for

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