

THE SCHOOL OF LAW REVIEW

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This is the first issue of the SCHOOL OF LAW REVIEW for the current University year. The magazine this year is being printed and is the successor of the mimeographed *Court Crier* and *School of Law Review*.

The object in printing is to place our magazine on a more permanent basis. The consequence of this has been an increased responsibility developing upon the Editorial Staff, with a parallel increase in the number and quality of articles required from the students. I think we may justly say the response has been magnificent for this, our first issue. Should we obtain such co-operation in the future, the success of the SCHOOL OF LAW REVIEW is ensured.

If ever there was truth in the adage "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their party", that time is now. For it is a time when the whole basis for the study of what has come to be known as "the arts", is being re-examined in the light of recent events and questioned. At a time when a nation stands at the threshold of complete uncertainty as to the future; when that nation's destinies for the next one thousand years are being determined by force of arms—what place is there for the arts; what place for the traditional concepts of law?

War is the negation of law, for in war, philosophy and ethics which the law holds dearest are scrapped and thrown into the dustbins of history. How can a world which has renounced all principles of law, afford the luxury of the judicial process?

Why, then, if the law itself finds no place in a society at war, should there be given a place to students of law? What possible bearing can the case of *Donoghue v. Stevenson* have upon the final conflict between democracy and fascism? How can a knowledge of the two hundred odd pages of *Allen v. Flood* alter the destinies of the peoples of India? What can be the possible value of *Temperton v. Russell* in learning to handle a Bren gun with terrible efficiency?

These and like queries are far easier to put than to answer. Their answers can be found in that long chain of sometimes unrelated circumstances, which has been called cause and effect. We might go back to pre-Hitlerian Germany and question the first beginnings of this conflict, and in doing so, among other things, we may find that national lawlessness eventually leads to international war. We will find that a healthy knowledge and respect for the law promotes tolerance and understanding which are a country's best guarantee against national injustice and international madness.

However, the value of the law is not confined to the training of sane and reasonable citizens. There is no doubt that a nation's sanity lies more in the hands of the lawyers than in any other body of men. Like the angels, they are mighty forces either for good or for evil, in that any government's policy can only be implemented by the lawyer and his law. In time of war as in time of peace he is an indispensable force in the state.

Whatever may be the policy of this and other countries after the last guns of the present world conflict are silenced, it will, to a large extent, be lawyers who shape them. When it lies within the power of this generation to silence those guns forever how tragic it would be if those whose high duty it is to shape the peace which is to come, discover that they are unequal to the task. Though conceit it may be in viewing a world at war, nevertheless, not the least important of all duties is to keep inviolate in the temple of justice our mistress, the law, whose devotee no free man can help but be.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

From time to time West Indians here at the University are asked how it is they thought of coming to Toronto, and the enquirers may not realize it, but they are wide open to the riposte—"there is no where else to go".

That reply would be tendered, however, rather because it is tempting, than because it is entirely true. The correct reply is twofold; firstly, war conditions preclude the usual yearly pilgrimage of West Indian students to the English Universities and the Inns, and secondly, amazing as this may sound, Canadians up to recently had omitted to remark on the fact that they owned so efficient and well-appointed a seat of learning as the University of Toronto, offering such up-to-date courses in so many fields.

The West Indian Law Students are, in addition, here because the University of Toronto is at present a centre for the English Bar Examinations and those using the opportunity are, and will ever be grateful to the individuals who made it possible, and still more grateful for the opportunity to study law under such capable guidance and in such cheerful and congenial an atmosphere.

The West Indians at Law School are, in the main comfortable and happy, and apart from such handicaps as the oppressive heat, and other minor inconveniences, feel that they—to borrow an Americanism—are going places in their studies, so far at least as the intrinsic value of the teaching help and encouragement received from those at the helm, is concerned.

Though not intending to intimidate, it is probable that the West Indians now here, are but the vanguard from that part of the Hemisphere; and it is well that this should be so, for is not Canada the big brother of those other members of the Empire and is it not requisite that big brothers should know what mischief the smaller lads have in mind; unless the intention is to disown the little varmints.

Just one thing Mr. Editor, the West Indians at Law School have learned that a scholar came to the School for a day but has stayed a year, and it appears that if the lectures persist in retaining their present lively, refreshing and erudite vein, many West Indians may wish to prolong their stay, to listen. You see Mr. Editor, West Indians are loyal. There are none more so. Loyalty due will be given, but a sincere smile wins them to your side, though the path is through the Valley of the Shadow.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC C. TOMLINSON.

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