



## Introduction

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### LEGAL EDUCATION IN MANITOBA\*

The decision of the Benchers of the Law Society of Manitoba in April, 1964, to make the program of legal education at the Manitoba Law School a full-time one will this year produce its most far-reaching results. First, the graduating class of 1966 will be the last one in which the students have served their articles concurrently with the whole of their four-year program of work at the Law School. Secondly, it is intended that during this year the School itself will cease to be under the joint control of the Law Society of Manitoba and the University of Manitoba, and instead become the Faculty of Law of the University of Manitoba.

In 1967 the new Faculty will have two graduating classes, one under a four-year program of which the first year was spent in full-time attendance at the Law School, with concurrent articling in the second, third and fourth years. Graduates from this class will be entitled to their call upon graduation if they have by then completed their period of three years of articling. The other class will be the first to graduate entirely under the new program of a three-year full-time course, culminating in the award of the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Students in this latter class who intend to practice will then have to serve a period of 12 months of articles and also take the Bar Admission course, at present being planned.

The decision to make the program at the school a full-time one has, of course, already had many implications. First, and foremost, is the fact that it has involved a great increase in the number of full-time faculty members. In 1964 the school had only four, whereas this year, it has nine, and it is anticipated that there will be 10 or possibly 11 in the coming session.

Secondly, the need for more accommodation became a pressing one. Not only did the size of the first class under the new program double, from approximately 40 to 80 students, but the school also had to take immediate steps to improve and develop its library facilities in the light of the full-time teaching program and the development of a seminar system. A graduate lawyer was engaged as librarian in October, 1964, and since then he has been reorganizing and expanding all phases of the school library. It is now estimated that there are over 22,000 volumes in this library, and it is hoped that this will rise to 70,000 within the next five years.

For many months the subject of discussion with reference to the provision of more accommodation was whether the Law School should remain downtown or move out to the University campus at Fort Garry. Forceful arguments were presented on both sides. The main reason

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for remaining near to the present location was the close proximity to the Law Courts and atmosphere of the law at work. On the other hand, it was said that to move out to the University did not necessarily mean a severing of all connections with the practicing lawyers, and would give innumerable benefits to the students and staff, for example, the intellectual stimulus to be gained by exchanging ideas with those in different disciplines, and the opportunity for co-operation with them in certain courses and research projects. It has now been decided that the new building will be situated on the main University campus and architects were appointed in this connection in November, 1965. It is hoped that the new Faculty of Law will be able to move into this building in time for the academic session of 1967-1968.

The third way in which the adoption of the new program precipitated alterations was in regard to curriculum. The basic change here was that courses involving details of procedure were removed from the Law School program to be dealt with in the Bar Admission course. This is because appreciation of the finer points of practice cannot be expected from a student until he is actually confronted with the need for this knowledge when in articles, and in any case it is not necessary for a broad understanding of the law itself, and this is what the School feels it is its aim to impart. In addition, it will be readily appreciated that there is a limit to the work which can be undertaken in a three-year program and it is felt that a lightening of the load achieved in this way can be nothing but beneficial, by allowing the essential courses to be deepened and enriched. In this respect, a system of instruction by seminars has been developed as a supplement to the normal classroom method for all students in the new program. The first and second year classes have accordingly been divided into groups of about ten to twelve students. There are weekly two-hour seminars in the five major courses of each of these years conducted by a full-time faculty member who is usually not the one currently lecturing therein. During the course of the academic year each group meets at least five times for a seminar in each of the five main subjects. By this means it is hoped to overcome the impersonal instruction which would otherwise come about with the greatly increased enrolment in the new classes.

The third year course will be supplemented with a substantial Moot Court program involving each student taking part in one mock trial, one appeal case, and one Magistrate's Court case. In this connection, serious thought is still being given to the possible setting up of a Law School Clinic. From the school's point of view, such a clinic would add a degree of sophistication to the student's academic studies while at the same time providing the increased incentive that comes from working on real problems and also preparing the way for service under articles.

It would not be right to conclude any survey of the present position of legal education in Manitoba without mentioning a very real contri-

bution made by the members of the legal profession in this regard during the past year.

The lawyers of the province decided to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Manitoba Law School which was celebrated in October, 1964 by the establishment of an endowment fund to be known as the "Manitoba Law School Foundation", the income from which is to be devoted in perpetuity to the interests of the school and the advancement of legal education or research generally.

In furtherance of the above purposes the Foundation has commenced a lecture series, in which the inaugural lecture was given on the 15th day of September, 1965, by the Right Honourable Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls.

Lord Denning addressed the students of the Law School in an informal manner in the morning of the 15th of September, and then delivered his lecture (which is published below) to students, practitioners, and the public in general, in Riddell Hall of United College in the afternoon. In the evening there was a banquet at the Royal Alexandra Hotel, attended by about 400 members of the legal profession and their wives, at the close of which there was a short speech by Lord Denning.

It is planned that the second lecture of this series will be delivered by Mr. Justice Walter Schaefer of the Supreme Court of Illinois on October 13th, 1966.

With this very practical token of the continued interest of the profession in legal education the members of the faculty feel that although the School may be losing its actual ties with the Law Society, it will continue to enjoy its help and co-operation in the new era ahead.

## LAW AND LIFE IN OUR TIME\*

Mr. Chancellor, Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I much appreciate the honor in inviting me to deliver the first lecture in the series you have founded. But when I see the distinguished company here, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Judges, and other eminent lawyers, I think of a letter I received recently which told me and invited me to a banquet, and it said that the Lord Mayor himself would be there, and the Attorney-General, and other imminent lawyers!

In the presence of the Professors of the Faculty of Law, I feel some diffidence in giving a lecture on law. You know, judges in every case have to come to a decision. Professors have not. And so, it can well be said that the Judge has to find a solution for every difficulty, whereas in the Law Reviews, the Professors find a difficulty for every solution! But, today, on this lovely sunny day, it is a great pleasure for me to

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\*By Rt. Hon. Lord Denning.