



P r e f a c e

A quiet revolution in legal education has been in progress in Manitoba for several years.

The external manifestations of this revolution are easy to catalogue. The full-time teaching staff of the Manitoba Law School has risen in number from two in 1958 to five in 1962. In 1959 the "pass-mark" was raised from 50% to 60%, and in 1961 the Law Society's "honors mark" was raised from 75% to 80%. The School's library has expanded its resources. Considerable experimentation has taken place in both teaching methods and course content. In 1961 the Rules of the Law Society of Manitoba concerning articulated students were altered to some extent. And in the fall of 1962 a committee of the Law Society, after a study of legal education in all of its aspects, proposed certain changes, which are presently being considered by the Board of Trustees of the Law School.

The intangible effects of our quiet revolution, though not as easy to document, are no less striking. One detects in the students a new attitude of concern (perhaps more closely akin to panic than to enthusiasm) toward their studies. In fact, they have recently requested extended library hours, so as to increase their study time. It is, of course, much too early to assess the long-range consequences of this attitude, but it seems unlikely that it could be anything but beneficial.

The decision of the School's Board of Trustees to publish this journal constitutes another stage in the revolution. It affords our students the opportunity to engage, under faculty supervision, in research and writing for publication. It provides the profession for the first time with a journal of sufficient scope to permit scholarly research on a sizeable scale. And it creates a new channel of communication between the School and both the profession and the rest of the legal world, a means by which to display the changes wrought by our quiet revolution.

Our only firm policy as to format and content is to have no firm policy. Flexibility is to be the theme. It cannot be denied, however, that we have embarked on the project with certain preconceptions about the nature and function of a journal of this sort. Perhaps it would be well to articulate two of the more fundamental of these premises.

In the first place, it is felt that the Manitoba Law School Journal should be devoted chiefly, though certainly not exclusively, to the work of Manitoba writers, and to material having a peculiar significance within the province. To do otherwise would be to engage in fruitless competition with the already too numerous periodicals whose chief appeal is national or international. It is hoped that the Journal can be regional without being provincial.

In the second place, our bias is unabashedly academic. We are not concerned with news items about the School or the profession, minutes of meetings, witty after-dinner speeches or useful hints to the practitioner. Other periodicals exist to bring these matters to the world's attention. Our aim is to stimulate and provide an outlet for serious legal research.

This inaugural issue of the Manitoba Law School Journal is dedicated to the late

HARVEY N. STREIGHT, Q.C.

who served the School as lecturer and Recorder from 1930 until his untimely death in 1960. Colonel Streight's friends (every student was his friend) remember him less for his scholarship than for his humanity. He was a learned man, in every sense of the word, but the characteristics which stand out most vividly in retrospect are a personal warmth, a willingness to assist his students with every conceivable type of problem, an utter disregard for superficialities, and a thoroughly common-sense attitude toward law and life. His contribution to legal education in Manitoba was unique, and his memory is a reminder that a revolution which severed all links with the past would be foolhardy.

R.D.G.

