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Introduction

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Introduction

“**W**HY the interest in Canadian law?”, the reader may well ask. To those within fairly close proximity of the Canadian border, reasons of a practical nature will immediately come to mind. But where everyday contact with the Canadian side is less noticeable or nonexistent, the answer is not so obvious. Generally speaking, Canadian affairs have become increasingly important to the North American scene in recent years. Conversely, the impact on Canada of political, economic, social and cultural developments in the United States has broadened appreciably in the same period. This interaction has given rise to interesting legal questions in many spheres of activity. A few examples will serve to illustrate the point.

In the public law area, development of the St. Lawrence Seaway and signing of the Columbia River Treaty have provided novel international questions for legal exploration. Pollution problems on the Great Lakes and elsewhere have recently come to the fore as requiring joint solution. Heavy investment of United States capital in the Canadian economy has brought regulatory activity of the Securities Exchange Commission and corresponding Canadian provincial authorities into focus. Income tax problems of corporations and individuals are felt on both sides of the border. Union organization is conducted on an international level. The flow of persons across a relatively open frontier poses special immigration problems. Attempts to combat international crime syndicates have presented interesting questions of law enforcement and extradition.

On the private law front, many citizens of the United States own property in Canada and are affected by Canadian estate and inheritance taxes. Development of an oil and gas industry in the western Canadian provinces has led to expansion of United States parent and subsidiary companies into this promising new area where oil and gas law had been negligible. Commercial ventures in Canada by United States concerns must cope with the requirements of Canadian private law. Tourists from the United States traveling by automobile in Canada may find themselves subject to Canadian tort and insurance law.

Not all the interest in Canadian law extends from purely practical considerations. Novel Canadian solutions to problems which are also of importance in the United States have attracted substantial attention. The Saskatchewan government automobile insurance plan and the Metropolitan Toronto local government scheme are two notable examples. Likewise, Canadians have been quick to adopt successful experiments from the United States. Workmen's compensation and labor legislation are outstanding instances. From a purely academic point of view, the civil law system of the Province of Quebec provides excellent material for comparative law purposes.

In the field of legal education, Canadian law graduates are increasingly turning to established United States law schools for further legal training and research in preference to graduate work at English universities. Responding to

this development, a number of law schools in the United States include Canadian legal materials in their libraries and are accommodating studies and research in Canadian law. A manifestation of this increased activity was the formation of a Joint Committee on Canadian-American Cooperation in 1962 by the Association of Canadian Law Teachers and the Association of American Law Schools. A conference of Canadian and United States law teachers sponsored by the two associations was held in 1963 at North Hatley, Quebec on the subject of "Canadian-American Cooperation in Legal Education." This year for the first time, the Association of American Law Schools will be holding a Round Table at its annual meeting in Detroit on matters of mutual interest to Canadian and United States law teachers, with the proposal that the Round Table become a permanent feature of the yearly gathering.

All of these developments indicate a significant interest in Canadian law. In the circumstances, some forum for presenting subjects of mutual interest is desirable. Because of its proximity to the Canadian scene and existing relationships between the Buffalo bar and law school with Canadian lawyers and law schools, the *Buffalo Law Review* is an appropriate publication to serve this purpose. In the past, it has published several articles relating to Canadian law. That it should continue to expand its horizons in this direction would seem warranted by growing interest in the interaction of Canadian and United States legal systems.

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