

Majesty's Reign (1896), assented to on the 7th of April, 1896, and received by the Secretary of State for Canada on the 22nd day of April, 1896:—

"An Act respecting the Canadian Historical Exhibition."

This Act provides for the holding of an Historical Exhibition within the Province of Ontario.

It is enacted by section 25, that the Commissioners shall have the exclusive right of publishing catalogues, photographs, illustrative or descriptive reports relating to the exhibition, except as may be stipulated with individual exhibitors, and may grant assignments and licenses in respect thereof.

This provision appears to be *ultra vires*, because it proposes to give copyright, and the subject of copyright has been committed to the exclusive legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada. The subject of copyright is also regulated by Imperial and Dominion Statutes. The section, however, seems unlikely to do harm, and the undersigned, therefore, and in view of the other important provisions of the Act which seem unobjectionable, considers that it is not necessary to do more than point out the invalidity of the section, and suggest the propriety of its repeal by the Legislature of Ontario at its next session.

The undersigned, therefore, recommends that Chapter 16 be not disallowed, but that a copy of this report, if approved, be sent to the Lieutenant Governor of the Province for the information of his Government.

Respectfully submitted,

WILFRID LAURIER,

Acting Minister of Justice.

Report of the Honourable the Minister of Justice, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the 23rd day of March, A.D. 1897.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OTTAWA, 15th March, 1897.

To His Excellency the Governor General in Council :

The undersigned has the honour to state that in his report of 30th November last, upon the Statutes of the Legislature of the Province of Ontario, passed in the fifty-ninth year of Her Majesty's reign (1896), it is stated that Chapter 92 is reserved for a separate report. The said statute was so reserved because the undersigned desired to consider certain representations which had been made to him on behalf of the Chippewa Band of Indians, of Sarnia, to the effect that adequate provision had not been made by the said Act for the assessment and payment of damages suffered by the Indians by reason of the closing of Thistle Street. Upon further inquiry, however, and upon considering the claims of the Indians, the undersigned has reached the conclusion that the Act contains reasonable provision for the ascertainment and payment of all such damages, and he accordingly recommends that the Act be left to its operation.

Respectfully submitted,

O. MOWAT,

Minister of Justice.

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