

PREFACE

This Short Treatise upon Canadian Constitutional Law, which I now offer to the profession and the public, embodies the two-fold scheme, of providing a text concise and simple enough for the purposes of University students and law students, and, at the same time, supplying in the Notes all the requirements of the practical lawyer called upon to advise upon some question arising under the British North America Act, or otherwise in relation to the Federal Constitution of the Dominion of Canada. In the Notes my aim has been to cite practically every scrap of authority, direct or indirect, which exists upon these matters. I have had the ideal throughout of completing my task absolutely regardless of the trouble involved. I do not think that anyone who turns over the pages of the Notes, or looks at the Table of Cases, every one of which has been carefully studied, will harbour any doubt as to the labour which I have put into this volume.

Will anyone ask whether my subject is worth such an expenditure of time and trouble? From a commercial point of view it may not be: but a man must take very short views, and be possessed of little imagination, who does not see the interest and importance of those constitutional rules and arrangements which lie at the basis of the national life of this Dominion. The greatest pessimist, if he possesses normal intelligence, cannot any longer doubt the glorious future which lies before the British Empire when, with the favour of Heaven, the allied nations have victoriously completed the