

until the reign of George III. that the statute law began to develop to its present enormous proportions. This passion for constantly adding to the statute book is a modern craze, which is to some extent due to the anxiety of the members of the numerous British Legislatures to justify their existence, and to make their fellow-subjects believe they are getting some good of the large sums of money they cost the country.

It is almost useless to hope, and yet it does seem to be something greatly to be desired, that some restraint should be in some way placed upon the constant amendment and re-amendment of the statute law. There are one or two considerations, it appears to us, which should always control the question of amendment. We must start with this proposition, a change is *prima facie* objectionable and injurious. To warrant any change it should be made manifest (1) that the amendment is desirable *per se*; (2) that there is an urgent necessity for its immediate adoption. If not, then it might be reserved, either until further amendments of a more pressing character are proposed, or until the next general revision of the statutes.

We have before urged (unhappily without much effect) that when a statute requires to be amended it should be reprinted in full. If this plan were adopted, the law at any given date upon the subject dealt with by the statute could be more readily ascertained than at present. If the amendments proposed are so trifling and so insignificant that it is not worth incurring the comparatively small expense of reprinting the statute proposed to be amended, it would be better to defer the amendment until such other changes might be suggested by experience as to make it worth while incurring that expense. Under the present system, in order to arrive at the state of the statute law one has often to consult, not only the revised statutes, but every volume of statutes which has been subsequently issued. Whereas, if the plan we suggest were adopted, the law at the date required would always be found complete in one volume. When a statute is thus amended, the amendments might be indicated either by notes or by the use of a different type, so as to direct attention to the changes which are from time to time made. There would be the further advantage resulting from this method of legislation, that the work of statute revision would be immensely simplified; the statutes would be constantly revising themselves, as it were, and at the end of the decennial period the task of revision would be reduced simply to eliminating from the general mass of statutes those which had been repealed, and arranging those which remained in their proper sequence. But to proceed to the work of the past session.

The secrecy of the ballot at Provincial elections is further provided for by an Act (cap. 3) which imposes divers oaths on election officers; it is to be hoped that the remedy may prove effectual; but if secrecy is really desired, more effectual means could obviously have been devised to secure it. A secrecy which is only secured by official oaths may in some cases prove to be no secrecy at all.

One of the few original Acts passed during the recent session is the Act respecting Mining Regulations (cap. 10), which contains sundry useful regula-