

have been inconvenient to mix up indiscriminately the enactments applicable exclusively to Lower or to Upper Canada, and I determined to divide the Index into two parts, one for Upper and the other for Lower Canada, but each including the Acts common to the whole Province. As my Assistant for that relating to Upper Canada, I esteemed myself fortunate in securing the services of Mr. W. C. KEELE, a gentleman well known as the author of a most useful and popular work for the Magistracy in that section of the Province. For the part relating to Lower Canada I was not so happy; and several gentlemen, to whom I applied, declined the office after consideration. The work was laborious, monotonous and uninviting; while from its nature, as well as from the limited time allowed for its performance, it was absolutely requisite that whoever undertook should not only devote his whole time to it, but work at it early and late. It was not until after the Upper Canada portion of the work was all but completed, that I was able to secure the services of a gentleman competent and willing to do this for that relating to Lower Canada. And indeed, I soon found that properly to revise, correct and print that part of the Index relating to Upper Canada and to the whole Province, was quite as much as I could do before the next meeting of the Legislature. It was indispensable also that the Lower Canada portion of the work should be prepared and printed in both languages. Under these circumstances, and as the Index was ordered upon the motion of an Upper Canada member, and the necessity for it was more particularly felt in that portion of the Province, I had no hesitation in determining to leave the Lower Canada Index until after the Session of 1856, when I could enter in it the Acts to be passed during that Session and their effect upon former Acts applying either to the whole Province or to Lower Canada alone.

The two Houses adjourned on the 18th December, 1854, after passing sixty-seven Acts; they met again on the 23rd February, 1855, and Parliament was prorogued on the 30th May, 1855, after passing one hundred and eighty-four more Acts, making in all two hundred and fifty-one, all of which and their effect on former Acts, had to be included in the Index. The removal of the Seat of Government in the autumn of 1855, of course retarded to some extent the progress of the work; but by the end of January the Upper-Canada portion of it, including the Acts applying to the whole Province, was completed and in print.

Shortly before the time last mentioned, I had succeeded in engaging the services of Mr. E. J. Hemming, Advocate, of Montreal, a gentleman admirably well qualified to afford me similar assistance in preparing the Lower Canada portion of the work, to that which Mr. Keele rendered me in preparing the Upper Canada portion, and by whose able and indefatigable exertions in working out my notes and instructions touching the Public Acts applying especially to Lower Canada, the manuscript of that portion of the Index was placed in my hands in September, 1856, including the Acts passed in the Session which closed on the 1st July then last. I lost no time in revising it, and inserting those portions which I had undertaken to prepare, and in making arrangements with Messrs. D. P. Myrand and E. P. Dorion, Advocates, Translators to the Legislative Assembly, for the translation into French. The printing was commenced as early as possible. I was unable to avail myself of the assistance of Mr. Hemming in correcting the proofs, in consequence of his residing in Montreal, but in this I had the efficient and zealous aid of Mr. F. Badgley, Advocate, the acting Assistant Law Clerk, as I had also in collating and verifying every reference in the book, and in every way in which his services could be made available; and to his help and to the ability and energy of Messrs. Myrand and Dorion I owe it that the work is now ready in English and translated into French, and that the printing of the French version is so far advanced as to make it certain that it will be ready early next month.

I have thought it right to enter into these details, in order to shew that the impossibility of complying literally with the Order of the House, alone prevented me from doing so, not to apologize for the time it has taken me to do what I feel