

PREFACE

THE frequency, in recent years, with which questions involving the limits of provincial and federal jurisdiction are raised, in the courts, has made it desirable to have a collection in one volume of all the decisions of the Judicial Committee which deal with the Canadian Constitution. This primarily is the *raison d'être* for the present work. That such a collection should be as useful as possible, the writer has added cross-references which indicate what portions of the earlier judgments have been discussed in later cases and in what respect they have been confirmed or modified. The writer has attempted to trace the development of the judicial institutions in Canada, and the growth of self-government from the earliest establishment of British rule down to the present day. While recognizing the difficulty there is in attempting to lay down with accuracy the boundary line between federal and provincial powers, the writer has undertaken to present what he trusts will prove a serviceable key to lawyers and others who at times are called upon to decide upon the validity of Canadian legislation. The recent Imperial Orders-in-Council which provide for appeals direct to the Judicial Committee from Provincial Courts are printed in full in Appendix "A," and the British North America Act, 1867, in Appendix "B."

The writer desires to express his indebtedness to the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales for its consent to the re-publication in this work of its reports of the judgments of the Judicial Committee which deal with the Canadian Constitution.

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