

CHANGES IN RAILWAY LEGISLATION.

In the year 1906 when the general revision of the Canadian Statutes took place, numerous and drastic changes were made in the Railway Act of 1903; its sections were, to a very great extent, re-arranged and the phraseology and effect of them, in many instances, altered. It has, therefore, become apparent that a new annotated edition of MacMurchy & Denison's Railway Act, similar in form to the previous work, will soon be required.

The time, however, is scarcely ripe yet for bringing out a new edition, partly because of the existing agitation to increase the powers of the Board of Railway Commissioners, and partly because of proposals to make other general changes in the statutes. No legislation of this character has yet been passed, but already some bills have been introduced proposing to limit the rate of speed in cities and dealing with placing wires across the railway and with the law of expropriation.

The proposed increase in the powers of the Board of Railway Commissioners will, very likely, be of an important character, and the sections of the Act bearing upon this matter may be largely changed. This coupled with the fact that litigation is now pending which may have an important bearing upon some of the sections of the Railway Act of 1906 would make it difficult, if not impossible, to bring out a work at the present moment, which would have a permanent value.

It is, therefore, felt that the new edition should be postponed for a few months until the new legislation, which is to be passed, is made public, and until litigation now pending is decided, after which it will be possible to annotate the more important sections of the Act in the hope that railway legislation will retain its present form for some time to come.

Meanwhile in order to facilitate a reference to the sections of the earlier Act a table of the former legislation in the Railway Act of 1903, and the corresponding sections of the Act of 1906, has been prepared and appears as Appendix II., to Volume VI.