ing the supremacy of Provincial rights; and that the course pursued by a Minister of Justice with respect to petitions for the disallowance of a statute of the type under discussion should be decided by these considerations. This view, it may be pointed out, is in accord with the opinion of Sir John Macdonald, (see Subdivision II., ante), that statutes which "affect the interest of the Dominion generally" may properly be disallowed.

C. B. LABATT.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN ACT OF UNION.

It is nearly fifty years since the representatives of the older provinces now forming this Dominion were engaged in the difficult task of seeking to reconcile the seemingly antagonistic interests, which at times appeared to be about to make a federation impossible. That such was accomplished. and that, with few modifications, it has stood the test of time, is no small tribute to those engaged in the conferences which terminated in the federation of nearly all the provinces of British North America.

Forty years later the federal government of Canada lent its aid towards the restoring of equilibrium in a group of other colonies in South Africa, geographically connected but not federated. The similarities and dissimilarities between those colonies and our own original provinces on the questions of race, divergent interests, state rights as opposed to national rights, the franchise, and the requirements of mutual aid to bring united strength, are too well known to need comment here, and it was not strange that those disunited colonies, recognizing the difficulties that lay before them, should cast about for the case which most nearly paralleled their own, and seek from that model to mould a constitution. Their draft Act of Union is now receiving the same careful consideration at Pretoria as the proposed Canadian Act of Union received from "The Fathers of Confederation."

The draft Act may be described as a compromise between union and federation. It bears very many resemblances to the British North America Act, and for that reason, if for no other,