

PREFACE

This volume is the outgrowth of a collection of cases on judicial interpretation and definition the author has been gathering for his own use and convenience during a number of years. It is the first attempt that has been made to place in available shape the judicial meanings of words and terms to be found in the judgments of the Canadian and Provincial Courts. Many of these definitions are hidden away in irregular reports and do not find their way into the digests, and many others are to be found only on a careful reading of the judgments.

Except where our Judges have adopted the definition of a word or term from the judgment of an English Court, or where the Privy Council has dealt with the construction of a Dominion or Provincial statute, no attempt has been made to go beyond our own Courts. To do so would be to go too far afield, and this apart from the fact that works like *Stroud* and *Wharton* are to be found in most modern law libraries.

As far as possible the exact language of the judgments has been followed and enough of the context or facts set out to enable the reader to judge how far the definition may apply to his own case. It is sometimes difficult to draw the line between definition and decision, and where any such doubt has arisen it has been thought better to include the authorities.

The table of statutes will be found of considerable practical value, more especially as the references to the Ontario statutes, unless otherwise indicated, are to the Revised Statutes of 1914.

The fact that more than three thousand five hundred cases, extending over the whole Dominion, are quoted or referred to, gives an idea of the labour involved in the preparation of such a volume. At the same time, it may form some excuse for faults both of omission and commission. The author can only hope that its value to the profession may be in some proportion to the labour involved.

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