

er 4 of the Quebec
y Revised Statutes,
enever its commen-
r shall, if it be not
om the sixtieth day
The Disallowed Act,
Federal Executive,
of September, 1888,
ver, until that date,
Court, or to appoint
he matters provided
this, the Proclama-
ointed eleven days

e assumed that the
the 30th of August,
the 10th of Septem-

unduly delay their
her apparent from
y of the Disallowed
o be taken, it taken
ved by the Secretary
8th day of August
uld not expire for
of the undersigned
our Excellency was
llowance of the Act
wards, the under-
e First Minister o
of that gentleman
he earliest possible
aken in reference to

to state a grievance
st noticed, inasmuch
sallowed Act, Your
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er of Justice, dated
course which should
al Statutes, and the
at case of disallow-
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artially defective, or
general interests of
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should not be disal-
urse, until the Local
bring and discussing

"the objections taken and the Local Legislature has also an oppor-
tunity of remedying the defects found to exist."

The undersigned does not understand that the adoption of those
general rules in 1863 in any way limited or controlled the exercise of
Your Excellency's power of disallowance. They were suggestions
for the guidance of the Minister of Justice of that time, and for his
successors in office, and, in so far as Provincial Governments were
concerned, they were merely indications of a line of action which
Your Excellency's advisors at that period thought suitable to be
adopted. They were not in any sense an agreement with Provincial
Governments, and at any time when they may be departed from it
would seem that the Provincial Executives have no reason to com-
plain of the exercise of Your Excellency's powers by any other
method. In the present instance, it seems apparent that the com-
plaint of departure from these rules is hardly well founded. It can
hardly be contended that in dealing with the objectionable Statute,
the Provincial Executive was at liberty to proceed with the utmost
expedition, but that the Federal Executive was bound to pursue a
course of remonstrance and delay which would have led to great
confusion and public injury if the view held by the Federal Executive
was right. It can hardly be contended that if Your Excellency's Ad-
visers thought the important provisions of the Disallowed Act to be
unconstitutional, and in excess of the powers of the Legislature, they
should have allowed the Act to be proclaimed, the Judges to be ap-
pointed by the Lieutenant Governor, the Circuit Court to be abolished
by Proclamation, the new tribunal to exercise its large powers in a
great section of the Province of Quebec without authority, suitors to
be involved in expence, judgments to be rendered and enforced, seizures
made, property sold, personal liberty restricted, while Your Excel-
lency's advisors would be remonstrating with the Provincial Exec-
utive and waiting for the Legislative session of 1889, in order to
give that Legislature "an opportunity of remedying the defects
found to exist."

It seems to the undersigned that, quoting the language of the rule
which, it is claimed was violated, "the general interests" did not
"permit such a course."

Under the circumstances which the undersigned has presented in
this report he ventures to submit that the Government of the Province
of Quebec was under an erroneous impression in supposing that in
disallowing the District Magistrates' Act of 1888, Your Excellency's
Government was actuated by any disposition whatever to limit the
actual right of that Province "to adopt any law deemed necessary
for the good Government and prosperity of the Province, within the
limits of its powers and attributes."

(Signed) JNO. S. D. THOMPSON.
Minister of Justice.