

parallel columns, giving as nearly as possible the corresponding sections of the Acts of each Province, with the substance of each section, for facility of reference, and in a general column of remarks at the close, pointing out the difference. In some instances where the mode of legislature was so entirely dissimilar, as hardly to admit of a selection of corresponding sections, then to give a concise review of the main parts of the mode adopted in each Province.

In carrying out this plan it was found that while both in Nova Scotia and Ontario, the statutes had been revised up to a much later period, and that in both an available index to their statutes to within the last four or five years could be found, yet in New Brunswick there had been no revision since 1854, and no general index for sixteen or seventeen years.

First.—It became, therefore, necessary to prepare such an index. This was done.

Secondly.—As there were many of the Imperial Statutes, which affected the Dominion—were frequently referred to in the courts—governed the administration of justice, and bore upon the property and civil rights of the three Provinces, of which statutes no collection had been made or existed in any compact form in any of the Provinces; it was thought advisable to make one, briefly referring to them by their titles and subject matter, when they were not of a character frequently to be cited; when they were, by giving the sections in full, as well as the title and subject matter; but omitting all parts of the statute not bearing upon British North America. This was done.

Thirdly.—Applications were made to the Provincial Secretaries of the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and to the Secretary of State for the Dominion, to obtain, if possible, a sufficient number of copies of the codified and uncodified laws of the two former Provinces, and of old Canada—to be used for cutting out the extracts for the parallel columns—leaving simply the general remarks to be written, thus saving labour and time, and greatly facilitating the readiness with which the comparisons could be made.

From Nova Scotia no copy of the Consolidated Statutes was obtained, but one set of the Acts for five years, from 1864 to 1869 was sent.

From the Secretary of State for Canada, one copy of the Consolidated Statutes, and the Acts passed subsequently up to the time of Confederation.