

force ;—while with regard to the ordinances 27 G. 3. c. 2. and 29 G. 3. c. 4. (regulating the militia) opposite opinions have been held and acted upon by high authorities, and the legislature itself seems to have come at different times to opposite conclusions, with regard to their revival or non-revival on the expiration of the temporary acts by which they had been repealed.

With regard to the question, what parts of each act or ordinance not wholly repealed or expired were in force, the inquiry was frequently much complicated ; the subsequent acts on any subject frequently repeating the provisions of prior laws, or containing provisions more or less at variance with them, without expressly repealing them.

In order to execute this portion of their task, the commissioners found it almost absolutely necessary to classify the laws wholly or partly in force, in the order of the subjects to which they relate. And having done this, they found it practically of great advantage to insert the laws themselves, in the order thus determined upon, in books prepared for the purpose, having ample margin for the notes and remarks they might have occasion to make. These books accompanying their present report.

Having executed, compared and revised this portion of their work, the commissioners made their first report to Your Excellency in April last.

In this report to which they respectfully refer, they had the honor to recommend the publication of two tables relative to the acts and ordinances of Lower Canada, the object of which they described and of which they submitted a portion for examination. Their recommendation was sanctioned by a report of the honorable the Executive Council, dated 26th April last, and approved by Your Excellency ; and the printing of the tables was commenced immediately afterwards. The English version has been completed and before the public for nearly two months ; the French version, which has been prepared by Mr. G. B. Faribault, advocate, under the superintendence of the commissioners, is now also completed and published.

The object of these tables, of which a copy in each language accompanies this report, was explained in the first report of the commissioners, and is, moreover, so obvious from the work itself and the introductory notes to it, that the commissioners hold it unnecessary to state it here. They contain the substance of the notes of the commissioners on the points to which they relate. No pains have been spared to make them correct, and to print them correctly. The *errata* which have been discovered have been noted in every case where they could have misled the reader ; and if any have escaped unobserved, it is believed they must be very few in number, and may be excused in a work containing several thousand references to and citations of laws and sections of laws, and being the result of the revision of about fifteen hundred acts and ordinances, which had undergone no prior revision from the time of the commencement of the series in 1777.

The work of revision being completed, it remained for the commissioners to consider the course they ought to adopt, under the clause in their commission authorising them to consolidate such of the said acts and ordinances as related to the same subject or could be advantageously consolidated.