

Book Reviews.

The Legislation of the Empire; being a survey of the legislative enactments of the British Dominion from 1898 to 1907. Edited under the direction of the Society of Comparative Legislation, with a preface by the RT. HON. THE EARL OF ROSEBURY. 4 volumes. London: Butterworth & Company; Toronto: Canada Law Book Co., Ltd. 1909.

The study of comparative legislation has been generally looked upon as a subject of academic interest. The four volumes of this new work will go far to remove such an idea. While reading them one is impressed with the fact that the knowledge of the laws of other countries within the Empire will do much to strengthen Imperial relations.

In compiling the work the object has been to bring out prominently the features of importance in each new law passed during the years 1898 to 1907, a period during which statutes have been turned out with a rapidity never seen before. This work is of incalculable advantage for the legislators of any country, for while proposing legislation on any topic they can ascertain what similar legislation there is in other colonies and how it is worked.

From another standpoint too the study of comparative legislation is advantageous. It is both necessary and useful to study the Acts passed in other countries, to find out what provision another country has made with regard to a certain matter of public interest, and how far its statutes can be usefully adopted.

The ten years just passed afford peculiar advantages for such a comparison as has been made. 25,000 statutes have been passed in eighty different legislatures for four hundred millions of people.

The Commonwealth of Australia has been created, the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan have been constituted, Lagos and Southern Nigeria fused and the South African constitution has grown from conditions following the war in South Africa.

No library or government office can afford to be without this work. Every lawyer who takes any part in public life must be interested in it and it will be found of immense practical value, even in ordinary practice.

The price in Canada, we understand, has been fixed at \$12.00 for the 4 volumes, although in England the work is published at 50s.