

"The chapters of the draft were apportioned among sub-committees, who made a careful examination, comparison and verification of all those sections of existing Statutes, which are noted in the draft as having undergone any changes in arrangement or language, as having been repealed, or in regard to which any change is suggested by the Commissioners."

"The general arrangement and execution of the proposed consolidation and revision are, in the opinion of the Committee, convenient and satisfactory."

The Commissioners having thus performed the work entrusted to them, Messrs. Wilson and Ferguson, who had been members thereof, with Mr. A. Power, of the Department of Justice, and a barrister of the Province of Nova Scotia; and Mr. J. G. Aylwin Creighton, a barrister of the Province of Quebec, the Law Clerk of the Senate, were instructed by the Government, after the close of the Session of 1885, to incorporate the Public General Acts of that Session with the reported work of the Commission, to superintend its translation into French, and generally to prepare it for publication.

The French version was prepared by Mr. Coursolles, chief French translator to the House of Commons, or under his immediate supervision.

It was found, however, that it would not be possible to have the work ready for publication before the commencement of the then next session: and on the 31st December, 1885, the gentlemen last named made the following report:—

*To the Honourable the Minister of Justice of Canada:—*

SIR,—Pursuant to the instructions which we received from you, we have incorporated with the draft submitted by the Commissioners appointed to consolidate and revise the Statutes of Canada, such of the Acts passed during the last session of Parliament as appeared to be proper subjects for consolidation therewith, and also the amendments suggested in the report of the Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons appointed last session to consider that draft. In the execution of this work we have adhered closely to the system and rules adopted by the Commissioners in the performance of the duties assigned to them.

We have also carefully revised, and made the additions to the Schedules to the report, rendered necessary by the legislation of last session, and we have completed the chronological and analytical table, showing in what manner each Act of Canada, and of each of

the Provinces, which relate to matters within the control of Parliament, have been dealt with by the Commissioners and by ourselves.

We have also in course of preparation for publication, according to your instructions, a collection of all the statute law of a public general nature, relating to subjects within the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada, now in force, but which in the opinion of the Commissioners could be more conveniently dealt with in this way than by consolidation.

Ottawa, 31st December, 1885.

This report was accompanied by a draft of the work in its then state, which was laid before Parliament, submitted to a Joint Committee of both Houses, and reported with amendments, and being approved by Parliament as so amended, the Act now 49 Vict. c. 4, was passed, authorizing the Governor-General to cause such Public General Acts of the Session as he should deem proper to be incorporated with it, and to bring it into force on and after such time as he should appoint.

The work as now published consists of one hundred and eighty-five Acts, each forming a chapter, on some subject within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament; and printed separately with the Royal Arms and the imprint of the Queen's Printers, and from stereotype plates kept by him, so that he can furnish copies of any required Act or number of Acts, or the Acts relating to any subject or class of subjects can be taken out of the volumes and bound or stitched separately, a great convenience to professional men or officers of departments, or others, requiring to have the Statute Laws on any matter in a handy and portable form.

In this portion of their work the Commissioners have followed generally the order and lines of the Consolidated Statutes of the old Province of Canada, and of Upper and Lower Canada, and have indicated at the end of each section the sources from which it has been taken or derived, thus affording easy means of finding the date at which any provision became law, a facility not given in the Revised Statutes of the Maritime Provinces or British Columbia; and they have also here given effect to the provision in their commission empowering them to collect and classify Provincial enactments still in force on subjects under the exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament, by inserting such