

PREFACE

In this little book I have endeavoured to make a complete collection of leading decisions under that part of the Constitution of the Dominion of Canada which is comprised in the British North America Act 1867, understanding by 'a leading case,' one that settles the law upon some important point. I would have it regarded as a supplement to Mr. Ernest C. Thomas' well-known and excellent collection of leading English constitutional cases. For the leading cases in English constitutional law are happily also leading cases in the constitutional law of Canada. The principles of British liberty are an all-important part of Canada's goodly heritage. At this very moment Canada is aiding Britain and her allies in a war against militarist Germany on behalf of those principles, as much as on behalf of International law.

There is, I think, no better way to introduce the student to our constitutional law, than by a collection of leading cases. The constitutional law of Canada, pre-eminently, is, in a sense, built up upon the judgments of the Courts; and the object of such a collection as the present is to give concrete reality to the study of the subject, and to shew the student how constitutional questions actually arise, and require to be dealt with. There is this distinction, however, between the cases here collected, and those collected by Mr. Thomas, that