

satisfactory. On *à priori* grounds, it is, to say the least, extremely improbable that the framers of the Act, when they conferred the general power of disallowance, intended merely to furnish an alternative means of abrogating such Provincial statutes as should be *ultra vires* in respect of their subject matter. The more reasonable hypothesis would seem to be, that they regarded questions of jurisdiction as being preferably determined by decisions rendered in the ordinary course of litigation, and that it was their expectation that the validity of legislation in this particular point of view would normally be settled by the courts rather than by the Dominion authorities. This consideration may fairly be said to indicate that the special object of the section as to disallowance was to render possible the annulment of statutes which, although dealing with matters within the legislative domain of the Provincial Parliament, might be objectionable on other grounds.

(c) The improbability that the provision under review is to be construed in such a sense that an application to the legislature itself becomes the only available method of procuring relief in the class of cases under discussion is greatly increased, if we bear in mind that this description of remedy must, in the very nature of the case, be ineffective in a large proportion of instances. The conditions under which political affairs are ordinarily conducted are such that a petitioner, at all events if he is a private individual and not a member of the dominant faction, would have but a very slender chance of procuring relief from the Parliament responsible for the statute complained of. A recantation by that body could, it is to be feared, very seldom be expected except in cases in which public opinion had declared itself so strongly and clearly against the given enactment, that a refusal to repeal it, or grant redress in some other form, might appreciably affect the results of the next election. But it may with some confidence be affirmed that this situation would rarely occur. Usually, it is apprehended, the reception accorded to the application of a sufferer would be no more favourable than such as might be expected from men acting upon the well-