

the date when it should come into force. Chapter 4 of the Quebec Statutes of 1871, provides, (and it is re-enacted by Revised Statutes, 1883, art. 5) that a Statute of that Province "whenever its commencement is not otherwise therein provided for shall, if it be not reserved, come into and be in force, on and from the sixtieth day after the day on which it was assented to." The Disallowed Act, therefore, even without any interference by the Federal Executive, could not come into effect until the 10th day of September, 1888, and the Executive of Quebec would not have power, until that date, to issue the Proclamation abolishing the Circuit Court, or to appoint the District Magistrates, or to do any other of the matters provided for by the Disallowed Act. Notwithstanding this, the Proclamation was issued and the Magistrates were appointed eleven days before that date.

Your Excellency's Advisers could hardly have assumed that the Executive of Quebec would desire to do, before the 30th of August, acts which they were only empowered to do on the 10th of September at the earliest.

That Your Excellency's Advisers did not untuly delay their action in respect to the Disallowed Act, is further apparent from the following circumstances: the authentic copy of the Disallowed Act, on which authentic copy alone action has to be taken, it taken at all, in respect of disallowance, was only received by the Secretary of State, and referred to the undersigned on the 8th day of August last. Although the time for disallowance would not expire for twelve months from the latter date, the report of the undersigned was made on the 3rd day of September, and Your Excellency was pleased to approve thereof, and to order the disallowance of the Act on the 7th day of September. Immediately afterwards, the undersigned sent, by telegraph, an intimation to the First Minister of Quebec, that this had been done, in consequence of that gentleman having requested the undersigned to give him the earliest possible information as to the action which would be taken in reference to that Statute.

The Quebec Order in Council next proceeds to state a grievance which seems to differ materially from the one just noticed, inasmuch as it is a complaint that in dealing with the Disallowed Act, Your Excellency's advisers acted with too much expedition. Reference is therein made to a memorandum of the Minister of Justice, dated the 9th day of June, 1868, recommending the course which should be pursued in reference to a review of Provincial Statutes, and the Government of Quebec declare that in the present case of disallowance those rules have not been observed.

The only rule to which this complaint can refer, by any possibility, is the following:—

"That where a measure is considered only partially defective, or where objectionable, as being prejudicial to the general interests of the Dominion, or as clashing with its legislation, communication should be had with the Provincial Government with respect to such measure, and that in such case the Act should not be disallowed if the general interest permit such a course, until the Local Government has had an opportunity of considering and discussing