

REVUE CRITIQUE

DE

Legislation et de Jurisprudence.

ASSIMILATION OF THE STATUTORY LAWS OF THE PROVINCES OF ONTARIO, NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.*

The plan finally adopted has been to gather together the statutes in each Province, bearing upon any particular subject, omitting, as a general rule, those subjects on which the Dominion Parliament, under the Union Act, has an exclusive right to legislate, such as the Criminal Law, the Militia Law, Navigation and Shipping, &c., subjects on which uniformity could be secured without the action of the Local Legislatures, but, nevertheless, selecting even from those subjects, one, Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes, as coming within the daily operations of the merchants and traders of the three Provinces, for the purpose of illustrating the differences in some of the most ordinary branches of business.

The next step was to make a summary of the provisions in each Province bearing on the subject selected, placing the same in

* The British North America Act, 1867, provides for the assimilation of the laws of Ontario, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, and in accordance with this provision, steps have been taken by the Dominion Government to ascertain the differences in the statutory laws of these Provinces, the common law (the English common law) being the same in all the three. The Hon. J. H. Gray was entrusted with this difficult and honorable task, and he has already made his preliminary report to the Honorable Minister of Justice, supported by voluminous Appendices, which have not yet been printed. Our article is an extract from the said report, prepared and contributed by the honorable and learned Commissioner.—[Ed. Note.]