

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

objections to it. They will say, in the first place, that the whole body of their laws ought to have been left intire, as there is a strong and well contrived connexion between all its parts, which makes it dangerous and detrimental to the welfare of the province to alter any of it. And, secondly, they will say, that, if any of the laws of England must be introduced here, they ought not to be introduced by general words, but by special ordinances, enumerating them, and setting them forth at full length, and in the French language, so that the Canadians may know and observe them. But these are objections which we believe will be made only by a few persons, and not by the generality of your Majesty's Canadian subjects.

Advantages  
and disadvantages  
of  
the fourth  
method.

The fourth method of settling the laws of this province, by making the law of England become the general law of it, with an exception of some particular subjects, or heads of law; and concerning those subjects to revive the ancient customs of the country by an ordinance or proclamation that should particularly set them forth and describe them in all the extent in which your Majesty should think fit to let them continue, without any reference to the law-books in which they were formerly contained, would be preferable to the third method in this respect, that by enumerating and describing, or reciting particularly, the several French laws and customs that were intended to be continued, it would cut off all connection, in the minds of the Canadians, with the French laws, lawyers, and judges, and the government under which they were maintained. The parliament of Paris, and the custom of Paris, and the French king's edicts would be no longer heard of, as being no longer of any authority; but the laws that were permitted to subsist must be cited in the words made use of by your Majesty to express them in the ordinance or proclamation which permitted their continuance. This would be a considerable advantage which this fourth method of settling the laws of this province would have over the third method; but it would be certainly somewhat more troublesome to your Majesty's ministers than that third method, and it would likewise be liable to many imperfections from the inaccurate manner in which the French laws and customs that were intended to be continued would probably be set forth; and it would be further liable to the two latter objections which might be made to the third measure, to wit, that it would give but an imperfect degree of satisfaction to some of the Canadians, by leaving them only a part of their ancient laws and customs, and that it would further cause them to complain of the general manner of introducing the laws of England without informing them exactly and particularly what those laws were, that they