

The first table contains a list of all the statutes and ordinances in their chronological order, and shows with regard to each act or ordinance: First: The subject of the law generally, and whether it was originally temporary or permanent.—Secondly: If temporary, the period to which it was limited.—Thirdly: The acts or ordinances (if any) amending, continuing, suspending or repealing it.—Fourthly: Whether it is or is not now in force, and, if still temporary, to what period it is to remain in force.—Fifthly: If certain portions only be in force, the sections or parts which are so, with references to the acts or ordinances by which the other portions have been repealed or suspended, and to those by which the law is modified or affected, or which contain provisions on the same subject.

The second table contains a classification of all the acts and ordinances in the order of their subjects, and shows under each head:—First: The laws relating thereto which have expired or have been repealed, or have become effete by the accomplishment of the purpose for which they were passed.—Secondly: The laws relating to the same subject and wholly or partially in force.

The necessity of preparing such tables, before any progress could be made in the consolidation of the statutes and ordinances on any subject or class of subjects, is too obvious to require elucidation.

The commissioners flatter themselves that the publication will have the effect of reducing the statutes and ordinances of Lower Canada into order, and of enabling any person, possessing a copy of them, at once to find the statute law in force on any subject, and to trace its history; and that one of the principal objects of the commission will thus be attained.

The commissioners have spared no labour in endeavouring to ensure the correctness of the said tables; but if among the multitude of references to upwards of one thousand three hundred acts and ordinances, any errors should have crept in, the work being before the public will ensure their discovery and correction, before the legislature shall be called upon to amend or consolidate the law, in those cases where amendment may be deemed necessary or consolidation advisable.

The commissioners purpose to submit subsequently more ample statements and details on the matters entrusted to them, but they have been induced to make this report at the present time in order that the publication they have the honor to recommend may take place with the least possible delay.

The whole nevertheless humbly submitted.

A. BUCHANAN.
H. HENEY.
G. W. WICKSTEED.

Montreal, 21st March, 1843.