

## THE REVISED STATUTES OF CANADA.

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CANADA.**

THE revision and consolidation of the Statutes of Canada having been completed by the incorporation therein of the Acts passed in the session of 1866, and brought into force on, from and after the first day of March, 1887, by proclamation of His Excellency the Governor-General, issued on the 24th day of January now last, under the Act 49 Vict. chapter 4, as "The Revised Statutes of Canada," and being printed and distributed in English, in two volumes containing 185 Acts or chapters, in 2,246 pages, with a table of contents, a general index, and an index to chapters appended to each volume, some account of the revision will be interesting and useful to our readers, the revisers having prefixed no preface or introduction to their work.

The Commission for the revision was issued in June, 1885, to the following Commissioners viz.:— Sir Alexander Campbell, K.C.M.G., Minister of Justice; James Cockburn, of Ottawa, Q.C.; Joseph Alphonse Ouimet, of Montreal, Barrister; Wallace Graham, of Halifax, Q.C.; George Wheelock Burbidge, of Ottawa, Barrister and representative of the Minister of Justice; Alexander Ferguson, of Ottawa, Barrister, and William Wilson, of Ottawa, Assistant Law Clerk to the House of Commons of Canada.

Mr. Cockburn died before, or soon after, this commission issued, having done some preparatory work only; the other six gentlemen made the report of the commission on the 31st December, 1884.

After the formal opening, the commission reads as follows:—

Whereas, it having become necessary to revise and consolidate the Statutes of Canada,

And whereas each of the Provinces of Canada before Confederation possessed legislative authority over, and passed laws with respect to matters now within the exclusive legislative control of the Parliament of Canada,

And whereas, the British North America Act, 1867, continued these laws in force until repealed or altered by the Parliament of Canada, some of which have been so repealed or altered, some remain still the laws of the Province in which they were enacted, some are local in their nature, not being capable of being extended to the whole of our Dominion of Canada; while others might properly be extended to the whole or other parts of Canada, and it is probable that some should be entirely repealed;

And whereas, certain schedules of Acts requiring examination having been previously prepared, We deemed it necessary that further examination, collection and classification of the several Statutes of Canada should be made preliminary to the proper revision and consolidation thereof, and for the purposes aforesaid did cause a commission under the Great Seal of Canada to issue to the said James Cockburn, bearing date the 15th day of November, in the year of our Lord 1881, constituting and appointing him to be, from the 1st day of July then last past, our commissioner to complete the said Schedules already prepared, and to examine the Statutes passed by the Parliament of Canada since the first day of July, in the year of our Lord 1867, and to collect therefrom all those enactments which are still in force, and to note the enactments of the Old Provincial Statutes which have been repealed or altered; also to classify all unrepealed enactments according to subjects, care being taken to distinguish those applying to one or more provinces only; and generally to make such examinations, classifications and collections of the said Statutes as might be necessary preliminary to the proper revision and consolidation thereof.

And whereas We deem it advisable that the commission, which it was proposed to constitute after the preparatory work of consolidation as aforesaid had been completed, should be constituted without delay.

Now, therefore, know ye, etc., that reposing, etc., by and with the advice of our Privy Council for Canada, etc., We do hereby constitute and appoint you the said (*names of Commissioners*) to be our commissioners to consolidate and revise the Statutes of Canada.

To have and to hold, etc., the said office of, etc., with all powers, etc., during pleasure. And we do hereby appoint you, the said the Hon. Sir Alexander Campbell, to be chairman, and you, the said William Wilson, to be the secretary of this our commission, and hereby authorize and require you to report to our Privy Council for Canada from time to time as they may require, what may have been done by you in the premises, and to