

of Justice of Canada will be referred by the Governor-General in Council to the Supreme Court of Canada for hearing and consideration. Whatever may be the decision of the Supreme Court it will, without doubt, be taken to the Privy Council in England. Until the decision of the Privy Council is handed down these questions of law must remain in doubt.

HISTORY OF JOINT STOCK LEGISLATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

On the 10th day of December, 1859, Sir James Douglas, the Governor of British Columbia, by Proclamation enacted that the then existing statutes in force in England relating to Joint Stock Companies should be taken and construed to extend to the Colony of British Columbia.

In 1866, the Companies Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Council of the Colony of British Columbia repealing all previous legislation dealing with Joint Stock Companies. This Ordinance, however, from 1866 to 1869 was in force only on the mainland of British Columbia. In 1869, after the colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island had been united, an amending act was passed extending the Companies Ordinance to Vancouver Island and its dependencies. The Companies Ordinance, 1866, provided that the Companies Act, 1862, of the Imperial Parliament should have the force of law in the Province with the exception of certain modifications set forth in the said Ordinance. From 1866 to 1878 this Ordinance remained the only general act dealing with Joint Stock Companies on the Statute book of this Province. In 1878 an act was passed enabling companies to be incorporated under that act independently of the Companies Ordinance, and in 1890 a further act, known as the Companies Act, 1890, was passed, which authorised a third distinct form of incorporation, and from