

Advisory Duties.

It is the duty of this Department to advise the officers of the other Departments of the Government upon the numerous legal questions which constantly arise in connection with the varied matters coming before them, and advice is constantly required by County Attorneys, Crown Counsel, Coroners, and all others employed in the administration of justice.

It is also the office of the Attorney-General's Department to see that all Statutes and Orders-in-Council are drawn up in proper form, and that the public interests, as well as the rights of individuals, are carefully guarded. This is all the more necessary in the case of Statutes, since there is only one legislative chamber. The manner in which the work of supervision has been carried out is the best possible proof that, with an experienced and watchful Premier and a competent and careful Attorney-General, there is not the slightest need for a second one.

Revision of the Statutes.

In the work of Revision the greatest possible industry has been displayed. This has had the effect of eliminating the repealed Legislation, and of consolidating and arranging, under a most excellent system of classification, that which remains in force. The first Revision was completed in 1877, the code being published in two volumes under the title of Revised Statutes of Ontario. Subsequent revisions brought the work down to 1887 and 1897 respectively.

Compilation of Imperial Statutes in Force in the Province.

The work of compiling and putting in concise form all the statute law of England and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in force in this Province (hitherto inaccessible except by reference to large, rare and expensive volumes) has been undertaken under the direction of the Attorney-General, and is now about complete. This compilation will no doubt be of utmost advantage to the public and profession.

Legislation and Law Reform.

Legislation has been well abreast of the times, and, generally speaking, has been as progressive as that of any country in the world. No reforms are being clamored for by the people. Measures of legislation have been given by Liberal Governments

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