

In such cases we have carefully referred to the conflicting enactments, and have left the reader to judge for himself.

In those Statutes especially which relate to licenses to be issued by Inspectors of Districts, and to Militia pensions, we have found a confusion which it is not very easy to unravel, and several evident errors, particularly in the enactments of the last two or three Sessions.

The Statutes on these two subjects require much to be arranged and consolidated.

In one or two instances, as in regard to those Statutes which related to the barring of dower, and the alienation of the estates of married women, we have thought it right to print Statutes and clauses which have been repealed by later Statutes, referred to in the margin, because it is necessary that the repealed laws should still be kept in view, as they affect the validity of existing titles taken while they were in force.

Where Acts have been reserved, and afterwards assented to by Proclamation or Message, we have printed them with those of the year in which they were passed by the two Houses of the Legislature, and this has necessarily made a change in the numbers of Chapters of some of the Sessions.

It occurred to us, at first, that we should collect and publish such British and Imperial Statutes as are in force here; but as these, with very few exceptions, apply to both divisions of the Province equally, and were not embraced in the terms of the Commission under which we have been acting, we have not incurred the expense of reprinting them in this collection, which regards only one portion of Canada. We have endeavoured, however, to note those instances in which the Imperial Trade Acts, and other British Statutes, control any of our Provincial enactments.

The Index has been executed by Mr. Cameron, one of the Commissioners, who had the kindness to undertake it, on a plan which we had approved of. And we feel it just to observe, that the Commissioners have been much assisted in the progress of the work by the careful attention and exactness of Mr. Stanton, the Publisher.

We have spared no pains, by a diligent examination of the Statute Book, and by a careful comparison of our notes throughout, to make the present edition accurate; and we trust that we shall be found to have done so, with as few exceptions as the nature of the work would admit. But it has been made quite evident to us in the course of our examination, that to go through a task of this description with ease, and with anything like certainty of accuracy, it is necessary that the persons engaged in it should not only have the kind of information required, but that they should be able to withdraw their attention, for the time, from other occupations.

They would then retain the particulars of each subject more clearly in their minds, while the work advanced, and would be always proceeding with an uniformity of design; but this uniformity of design can scarcely fail to be interrupted, and in some measure lost sight of, when it is necessary, as it has frequently been with us, to suspend the work, in the midst of some particular subject, without the possibility of returning to it for several days, or weeks.

The errors which may have crept in, (we hope they are not many,) have probably arisen from this disadvantage.

We cannot forbear stating, before we conclude this Report, that the public Statutes, in the form in which we now present them, afford striking and abundant arguments of the necessity of a revision, if it were only for the purpose of taking up the principal subjects, one by one, in succeeding Sessions, and consolidating and arranging all the enactments connected with each.

But perhaps, for the reasons we have mentioned, this is not the best point of time for entering upon the work.

All which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

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