

REPORT.

*To His Excellency the Most Honourable the Marquess of Lansdowne, Governor
General of Canada, &c., &c., &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

The Commissioners appointed to consolidate and revise the Statutes of Canada, have now the honor to submit a draft of the work entrusted to them.

In preparing the several chapters, care has been taken to preserve uniformity of language throughout, to remove redundancies, and to arrange the provisions of the law in the most natural sequence. To effect this it has, in very many instances, been necessary to divide chapters, and divide and transpose sections. The Interpretation Act provides that the law shall be considered as always speaking, and for that reason the present tense has been used in the consolidation.

Among the Statutes of the several Provinces, passed previous to Confederation, there are certain Acts in respect to which doubts have arisen as to the authority with which the legislative power rests. There are also Acts, both among the Statutes above referred to and the Statutes of Canada, which it has not been considered advisable to consolidate, although their repeal is not recommended. These include Acts authorizing the raising of loans by Government, Acts of indemnity, Acts relating to specific localities less than a whole Province, and Acts of a temporary character. These Acts have been collected in a separate schedule.

Another class of provisions, which make violations of Acts within the legislative power of Provincial Legislatures indictable offences, and provide for their punishment, have also been collected in a separate schedule. It is suggested that provision should be made that these should be repealed in each instance, from the time when the punishment of the offence, by fine or imprisonment, is provided for by the proper Provincial Legislature.

A table is appended to each chapter, showing what Acts are proposed to be consolidated therein, the portion consolidated, the portion which it is proposed to repeal, the portion to be consolidated elsewhere, and a note of the Act with which such latter portion is to be incorporated, and to