

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

affairs, such as the rules of inheritance in the direct line, the rules of dower, and of the husband's rights arising from the matrimonial contract, the usual rules about quitrents, alienation-fines, and other profits due to your Majesty and to other lords, the usual methods of investiture of lands by performing fealty and homage, and the like, which would be sufficient to prevent the country from falling into general confusion.

This code we suppose to contain the whole of the law by which the province is to be governed, criminal as well as civil, to the exclusion of the whole of the English law, as well as the French, except what was contained in the code itself, and the acts of parliament relating to the custom-house duties, and those few other statutes that expressly relate to this colony by name or sufficient words of description since the conquest of it, or which, though made before the conquest of it, yet extend to it by virtue of the general description of *all his Majesty's dominions now belonging to the crown of Great Britain, or that shall hereafter belong unto the same*.

These are the advantages and disadvantages with which, as we conceive, this first method of settling the laws of this province, by composing a code of laws for that purpose, would be attended.

Advantages
and disadvantages
of
the second
method.

The second method of settling the laws of this province, by reviving at once the whole French law, and introducing by an ordinance only a few of the laws of England that are most eminently beneficial to the subject, is evidently the shortest and easiest method that can be taken for this purpose; but it would be attended with the following inconveniencies.

In the first place it would have a tendency to keep up in the minds of the Canadians that respect for the laws of France, and the wisdom of the parliament of Paris, and the excellence of the French government, which has been above described, and which it would be one of the principal advantages resulting from the former measure, of compiling a code of laws, to extinguish.

In the second place it would give disgust to the English inhabitants of this province, who are fond of the laws of England and desirous of having the greatest part of them continued, and think they have a right to the enjoyment of them upon two distinct grounds.

In the first place, they think that every country that becomes subject to the crown of Great Britain (whether by conquest, exchange, or otherwise) becomes immediately subject to the laws of England, and that the laws by which it was formerly governed become immediately and *ipso facto* void and of no effect, being superseded by the laws of England without the aid of any act of parliament or royal proclamation for that purpose.