

## PREFACE

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THE subject treated in this volume is one to which no class of persons in Canada can be indifferent, for no man can properly discharge the duties he owes to the public, or to himself, or to his family, without in some degree possessing a definite knowledge of the laws by which all are bound and the obligations resting upon each as an individual.

There is no good reason why every intelligent business and professional man should not understand particularly the laws of contract, agreement, guaranty, negotiable paper, chattel mortgages, mortgages, landlord and tenant, Statute of Limitations, wills, etc., as fully and clearly as any judge or lawyer in the land, for they belong to business life just as much as does the knowledge of the qualities and values of goods and commodities.

This "Digest of Business Laws" is not intended to make lawyers out of laymen, nor even to take the place of a lawyer in cases where a lawyer is needed, but it is intended to furnish its readers with such a detailed, systematic compilation of those business laws with which every person in community comes in daily contact that will enable them to act intelligently and promptly in the conduct of their business and avoid making those needless mistakes which so often involve loss and lead to ruinous litigation. It is doubtless the only purely law book published in Canada that is written from the standpoint of the layman, giving the information that laymen need, detailed and direct, free from technical language and the mediæval phraseology employed in the Statutes.

The success that has attended the publication and sale of the three previous large editions of this work is sufficient evidence that it is meeting the general and increasing demand on the part of business and professional men for a more accurate and critical knowledge of those laws that confront them in everyday life. The man who thinks it his duty or a virtue to remain ignorant of his legal rights and obligations, so that lawyers and court officials may thrive at his expense, is not addressed in these pages, but all others are invited to enter within and examine for themselves the contents of this, the fourth and enlarged edition of this work, which has been prepared with great care.

TORONTO, May, 1903.

W. H. A.