

V. Imperial Act to remove certain doubts with respect to the powers of the Parliament of Canada under section 18 of B. N. A. Act, 1867.

Orders in Council respecting Rupert's Land and the North-West Territory, 1870. The Province of British Columbia, 1871.

33 Vic., Chap. 3.—An Act to amend and continue the Act 32 and 33 Vic., Chap. 3; and to establish and provide for the government of the Province of Manitoba, and other Acts relating to Manitoba.

Order in Council respecting the uniting of Prince Edward Island with the Dominion of Canada, 26th June, 1873.

PART VII.

*Commissions, etc., of Governor General.*

Of Lord Monck, 1867; of Lord Dufferin, 1873; of Marquis of Lorne, 1879.

PART VIII.

Commissions of Lieutenant-Governors and other documents relating to the Government of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island previous to 1867.

Constitutions of the Provinces since 1867. Acts relating to the government of the North-West Territories.

From the foregoing partial summary it will be seen that it is the object of the writer to compile all such documents as show the precise nature of the systems of government that have prevailed in the course of the centuries that have passed since the settlement of Canada. So much attention has been given to the collection by the government of Quebec at different times of all documents bearing on the history of French Canada that it is only necessary to quote in the proposed work, those charters, commissions and decrees which are immediately connected with the government of the country at various stages or periods of the French *regime*. As respects the period during which the British North American Provinces have been dependencies of Great Britain, all the organic laws and documents establishing changes in the constitutions of those countries are only found scattered in a large number of volumes to be consulted at much inconvenience by the parliamentarian, publicist and historical student in two or three libraries of the Dominion, and indeed some of the papers, necessary to the work, will have to be copied from the Imperial archives.

It is intended to give a short introduction to each document, with references to such recognized authorities as will assist the reader in a more thorough study of the subject. The editor will also prepare such a succinct prefatory account of the various stages in the constitutional development of this country as will add to the completeness of the work and make it more valuable to all who may have occasion to consult its pages.

I believe that this work will be found of considerable value to the Parliament and country. But it is quite obvious that it is one not to be undertaken by a private individual at his own risk. I should therefore suggest that the Library Committee, in the first instance, take the whole matter into their consideration; and if after mature deliberation they are of the same opinion as I am, they might recommend it to the favourable notice of the Houses. The question could then be submitted to the Printing Committee, if the Houses should deem it worthy of the attention. The latter Committee could order the printing of at least 600 copies, in a style creditable to the country; for it would never do to send the work abroad in the inferior style of our public documents and statutes. I may here add that the work published by the government of the United States was compiled and edited by a distinguished official of Congress, the late Mr. Ben. Perley Poore under the direction of the Committee on Public Printing, in accordance with an Order of the United States Senate.

The Committee will understand that I do not propose to prepare this work, which will entail very considerable labour, with a view to remuneration. In fact I shall practically give my own labour to the House for nothing. All that I shall