

R E P O R T .

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of Canada, in
Parliament assembled;

The undersigned, Law Clerk of Your Honorable House, has the Honor to make
the following REPORT :

In obedience to the order of Your Honorable House, made on Mr. Gamble's motion of the 8th of November, 1854:—"That the Law Clerk of this House, "with such assistance as he may deem necessary, and which assistance he is "hereby authorized to procure, do prepare an Index of the Statutes now in force "in this Province, as full and complete, and upon the same plan, as that of the "revised Statutes of Canada West; which Index shall be made and finished in "time to be printed with the Statutes that may be passed during the present "Session, and shall be printed and bound up with them;" I lost no time in endeavoring to engage sufficient assistance in the preparation of the said Index and the revision of the Statutes, which formed an essential preliminary to it. In Upper Canada, I was fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. W. C. Keele, who commenced the work immediately; but in Lower Canada I had more difficulty, and failed to find any one who was able and willing to perform the work in the time within which it was necessary that it should be done, if it was to be revised and printed at any period before the commencement of the present Session.

I soon found, also, that even if all that I could depute to another were done for both sections of the Province by the time the Statutes of the now last Session were printed, it would still be impossible for me properly to revise, correct and print the work before the time when the next (now present) Session would probably commence. As the Index was ordered on motion of an Upper Canada Member, and the necessity for it appeared to be most strongly felt in Upper Canada, I determined to press on with the portion of the work relating to that division of that Province,—including the Statutes common to all Canada, and to leave the Lower Canada portion until after the present Session, when it will, of course, embrace the Statutes of this Session and their effect upon former Statutes; and as I have now secured an efficient and willing assistant in Mr. E. J. Hemming, Advocate, of Montreal, and as the part of the work common to both divisions of the Province will require only such correction as the Acts of this Session may render necessary, I hope to publish the Index for Lower Canada considerably earlier after the Session than I was able to publish that for Upper Canada. Indeed it is necessary that it should be ready as early as possible, since the Lower Canada Index must be translated and printed in French as well as in English, and this necessity formed another obstacle to my publishing both parts of the Index at the same time. It may be fairly expected that Lower Canada will profit by the experience I have had.

A copy of the printed work accompanies this Report, and in the prefatory notice prefixed to it, and to which I beg leave to refer, I have stated various details which it is unnecessary to repeat here; there are, however, a few points on which some farther observations may be appropriate.