

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

The preparation of these Tables was begun in 1900, at the instance of The Honourable David Mills, then Senator, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, with a view to facilitate a revision and consolidation of the Statutes of Canada; it has been continued under directions from his successor in office, the Honourable Charles Fitzpatrick, K.C., M.P.

The Tables embrace, as denoted by their title, all the Public General Acts, so called, of the Dominion of Canada, from and including The Revised Statutes, which came into force on March 1, 1887, down to the Statutes passed in the session of 1902. That is to say, all the statutes printed in the first of the two separate volumes published annually by the King's Printer, in compliance with the provisions of R. S. C., c. 2, s. 9, as amended by 1887, c. 2, s. 1. Many of these statutes, though for purposes of reference conveniently placed in the annual statute book, are not truly General Acts, but are either:

- (a) Merely Acts by which the machinery of Government is carried on for the current year; *e. g.* Supply Acts, Acts continuing expiring Acts, &c., &c.; or—
- (b) Acts in the nature of Legislative Warrants, *e. g.* for raising loans, for dealing with public funds, for carrying out certain public works, for granting indemnities, for authorizing the execution of documents, &c., &c.; or—
- (c) Local and Personal Acts, confined in their operation to definite localities or definite bodies or persons; or—
- (d) Merely temporary provisions to meet some special case.

With these the work of revision is not concerned, further than to sort them out and to extract from them such enactments as may be of permanent and general effect, but their repeals, amendments and other changes are noted in the Tables.

That method of reference to subsequent amendments has been adopted which, on the whole, seems to be the more convenient and conducive to accuracy. That is, the user of the Tables is carried on from one year to another, no systematic attempt being made to indicate opposite each particular section of the original Act all the changes that have been made by subsequent amendment of the amending enactments. To collate and connote these would anticipate the proper work of the reviser, would introduce an element of personal judgment, and in many cases would lead to confusion by multiplicity of references on diverse matters. Direct reference to such subsequent amendments is, however, made sometimes. In all cases it will be found that the method adopted ensures notice of all changes and, it is hoped, of all factors to be taken into account.

The Acts mentioned immediately below the title of any Act comprise not only those directly amending that Act, but also others which, having some bearing on it, or being *in pari materia*, or from analogy, should be consulted or compared as to the treatment of the subject or of some of its details. Some statutes must constantly be borne in mind. For instance "*The Interpretation Act*," of the existence of which most readers and many draughtsmen of statutes seem to be ignorant, "*The Criminal Code, 1892*," and its amendments, "*The Canada Evidence Act, 1893*." Such statutes are referred to in the Tables when their bearing is immediate, not when it is general or indirect.