

1910

Canadian Legislation, 1909

George L. Clark

University of Michigan Law School

Available at: <https://repository.law.umich.edu/articles/1093>

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.law.umich.edu/articles>

 Part of the [Comparative and Foreign Law Commons](#), and the [Legislation Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Clark, George L. (1909-1912). "Canadian Legislation, 1909." *Am. Pol. Sci. Rev.* 4 (1910): 390-1.

This Response or Comment is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Scholarship at University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Articles by an authorized administrator of University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact mlaw.repository@umich.edu.

NOTES ON CURRENT LEGISLATION

CONDUCTED BY HORACE E. FLACK

Canadian Legislation, 1909. One of the most important matters of legislation enacted by the Canadian Parliament, during the session of 1909, was the law establishing the commission for the conservation of natural resources, (ch. 27, Statutes of Canada, 1909). The commission is composed of twenty members, appointed by the governor in council, in addition to the minister of agriculture, the minister of the interior, the minister of mines, and the member of each provincial government in Canada who is charged with the administration of natural resources of such province. Of the members appointed by the governor in council at least one member appointed in each province shall be a member of the faculty of the university of such province, if there be such university. The commission serves without fee or compensation except such expenses as are incurred in traveling to, or returning from, meetings of the commission. The duties of the commission are defined as follows: to take into consideration all questions which may be brought to its notice relating to the conservation and better utilization of the natural resources of Canada, to make such inventories, collect and disseminate such information, conduct such investigations inside and outside of Canada, and frame such recommendations as seem conducive to the accomplishment of that end. The officers and clerks of the commission shall be appointed under the civil service act, except such assistants employed for the purpose of any special work or investigation, such employment to terminate immediately upon the completion of the special work for which they were employed. The commission is to report at the end of each fiscal year to the governor in council and such report shall be printed and laid before both houses of parliament.

Parliament also created two new departments of the state government, the department of labour and the department of external affairs. The department of labour (ch. 22) is placed under the direction of the minister of labour, who receives an annual salary of \$7000, and who shall be charged with the administration of the conciliation and labour act, and the industrial disputes investigation act, 1907, and such other duties

as may be assigned to him by the governor in council. The department of external affairs, (ch. 13), is presided over by the secretary of state and is vested with power to transact all official business with foreign governments and all international and intercolonial negotiations, so far as they may appertain to the government of Canada.

Under the government annuities act, 1908, it was impossible to assign any interest in an annuity, but by an amendment, (ch. 4), made this year, a married man, who is an annuitant, can transfer a portion of his annuity, up to within one-half of the same, for the benefit of his wife, to be paid her during life, provided application for the same shall be made within three months of the time the annuity shall commence to be payable. The act was further amended to permit an annuitant to enter into an agreement with the government to dispose of the moneys due if the annuitant should die before the annuity becomes payable. Heretofore all money paid for an annuity automatically reverted to the heirs of the annuitant, in case of his death before the annuity became payable, but under this agreement he can make such disposition of the same as he desires.

New or increased powers were given the board of railway commissioners, (ch. 32), as follows: relative to complaints for breach of agreements, reissue of securities deposited or pledged for loans, grade crossings, fire protection along railroad rights of way, powers over foreign corporations owning railroads, annual reports, and speed of trains through cities, villages, etc. The board is also given power to fix the price of electricity, generated by water power under lease from the crown, in disputes between lessee and applicants for the same (ch. 31).

The ship subsidies act was amended (ch. 36) to permit the governor in council to grant a subsidy of a maximum of \$200,000 to any company maintaining a steamship service between Canadian and French ports, upon a minimum of fifteen round voyages per year. The minimum was formerly eighteen round voyages.

Numerous amendments were made to the criminal code (ch. 9) relating mostly to jurisdiction, court procedure, etc., and laws were enacted to provide for the inspection, registration, and to regulate the sale of commercial feeding stuffs (ch. 16); to prohibit the payment of secret commissions or bribes to agents or employes (ch. 33); authorizing a loan of ten million dollars to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company for the completion of the prairie section of the transcontinental railway (ch. 19).

GEORGE L. CLARK.