

The "Abstract" is, as its name implies, a digest of the Blue-books issued by the federal and provincial executives. These digests are accompanied by such explanations and analyses as a very general and imperative demand for something more than statistical tables seemed to suggest as a needed accompaniment.

The classification of imports in the chapter on Trade and Commerce has been carried on, so that there is now an analysis for eighteen years, year by year and article by article. The five classes into which the imports have been grouped enable the student to perceive intelligently the incidence of taxation as associated with the customs duties.

In connection with the chapter on Minerals a digest of the mining laws of the several provinces has been made, frequent applications from abroad showing that the effort to focus all this information will be useful.

Many other changes have been effected with the object of making the book more useful to the general public as well as to the expert. A Map showing the British Possessions and the principal commercial routes is a new feature.

I desire to record my indebtedness to Messrs. J. Wilkins and J. Skead who, in the present as in former issues, have performed the work of compiling the tables in the "Abstract."

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