

**THE CONSTITUTION OF  
CANADA IN  
ITS HISTORY AND  
PRACTICAL WORKING**

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The Constitution of Canada in Its History and Practical Working by William Renwick Riddell

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**WILLIAM RENWICK RIDDELL**

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ΤΟ  
ANNA HESTER KIRSOP RIDDELL,

*διὰ γυναικῶν, ἀρίστην κούραδιον,*

*φιλάτην πάντων,*

ΚΑΛΟΚΑΤΑΘΗ.

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## PREFACE

THESE four lectures in the Dodge Foundation are not intended to give a formal and connected account of the Constitution of Canada, but rather a popular exposition in a manner likely to be more acceptable to a non-legal audience.

The subject was not of my own choosing, but was adopted at the instance of friends in Yale University who were good enough to say that the Constitution of Canada might be made interesting to the class of Americans whom these Lectures are expected to reach.

Those desirous of a more extensive knowledge of the subject are advised to consult such works as the following:

"Parliamentary Government in the British Colonies," by Alpheus Todd, C.M.G., etc., 2d edition, London, Longmans, Green & Co., 1894.

"Parliamentary Government in England," by the same learned and accurate writer, 2d edition, London, Longmans, Green & Co., 1889.

"The Canadian Constitution," by E. R. Cameron, K.C., Winnipeg, Butterworth & Co., 1915.

"Canada's Federal System," by A. H. F. Lefroy, K.C., Carswell & Co., Toronto, 1918.

"The Law of the Canadian Constitution," by Mr. Justice Clement, 3d edition, Carswell & Co., Toronto, 1916.

"The Law of Legislative Power in Canada," by A. H. F. Lefroy, K.C., Toronto Book & Publishing Co., Toronto, 1897-1898.

"Parliamentary Procedure and Practice in the Dominion of Canada," by Sir John Bourinot, 4th edition (Dr. Flint's edition), Toronto, Canada Law Book Company, 1916.

"The Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, His Life and Times," by William Buckingham and (Sir) George W. Ross, Rose Publishing Co., Toronto, 1892.

Any of the several Lives of Sir John A. Macdonald.

The historical matter is to be found scattered in many volumes. Kingsford's "History of Canada," in ten volumes, Russell & Hutchinson, Toronto, 1887 to 1898, is very useful but must be read critically; it is not always accurate in minutiae.

These Lectures are submitted in the hope that they may tend a little toward increasing the knowledge of our system by our friends and neighbours to the South, and in the confident