

THE ACTS OF LAST SESSION.

ject to the provisions of the said R. S. O., c. 153, as so amended.

Of the next Act, chap. 20, we need say little. It is entitled an Act to give increased stability to Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, and (sec. 29) is to be read as part of the Act respecting Mutual Fire Insurance Companies (R. S. O., c. 161) into which it introduces several amendments. Among these there appears a curious one introduced by sec. 27, which amends R. S. O., c. 161, sec. 61. This last-named section, it will be remembered, provides that no execution shall issue against the Company upon any judgment until after the expiration of three months from the recovery thereof. This is now amended by excepting any judgment recovered on any policy or undertaking of the company *heretofore issued or given* where more than fifty per cent. of the premium was paid in cash at the time of the insurance: and a judge or referee in chambers is, on application, to certify as to these facts. This then, will only apply to policies issued before R. S. O., c. 161. (36 Vict. c. 44). Sec. 28 makes the provisions of the Fire Insurance Policy Act (R. S. O., c. 162) apply to mutual fire insurance companies.

Chap 21, entitled an Act respecting returns from Incorporated Companies, is, if we are not mistaken, intended to prevent the recurrence of such a scrape as certain companies incorporated by letters patent under R. S. O., c. 150, got into some time ago, by not duly making the yearly returns required by sec. 49 of that Act. Under subs. 6. of the said sec. 49, any company making default is liable to a penalty of twenty dollars per day during the continuance thereof, and so is every director, manager, and secretary. As under the authorities such penalty would probably be held to be accumulative, defaulting companies were apt to find themselves saddled with very heavy liabilities. Now, however, by virtue of sec. 2 of the Acts of last session, the whole amount of the penalty recovered is not to exceed \$1000, and

if several actions are brought against the company or its officers the court or judge may consolidate, or stay the later of them as seems just.

Chapter 22, entitled an Act to make provision for the safety of railway employees and the public, calls for little notice here, though it is of interest in these days when we hear so much of proposed alterations in the law affecting the liability of masters for injuries sustained by servants in their employ. This Act would appear to deprive railway companies, wilfully neglecting to comply with its provisions, of any defence on the ground that the injured servant of his own will incurred the risk.

Passing by chapter 23, which is an Act respecting aid to certain railways, chap. 24, entitled the Municipal Amendment Act of 1881, is to be read as part of the municipal Act (R. S. O., c. 174), and introduces a great number of amendments into that Act. It may be worth while to notice here that under sec. 35 no municipality shall sell or lease its market fee for a period beyond April 1, 1882, till further authorized. In like manner chap. 25, the Assessment Amendment Act 1881, contains, with new enactments, several amendments of the Assessment Act (R. S. O., c. 180). Of the remaining public Acts it will be sufficient to mention the titles. Chap. 26 is an Act respecting snow fences; chap. 27 is an Act to give increased efficiency to the laws against illicit liquor selling, which it does partly by a variety of amendments to the Liquor Licence Act (R. S. O., c. 181); chap. 28 is an Act to prevent the spread of yellows among certain trees; chap. 29 is more interesting to small birds than to lawyers, and amends the Act for the protection of insectivorous birds (R. S. O., c. 201); and lastly, chap. 30 is an Act for further improving the School Law, small boys being attended to after small birds.

All the remaining Acts of last session are of a private character, except chap. 33, which repeals secs. 23 and 24 of the Prison and