

maintained ; conditions are required to be observed and their observance proved by the promoters of a bill, and if they abandon it and no other parties take it up, the bill is dropped, however sensible the House may be of its value.*

First provision for Private Bills in Canada.

Although this distinction was recognized by the Legislature of the old "Province of Canada" in framing Rules for its guidance at its first Session (in 1841) by the adoption of a provision requiring two months' notice of applications for private bills, and the exaction of a fee of £20 on all such bills ; and also by the appointment, every Session, of a Standing Committee on Private Bills ; little else was done towards the adoption of a regular system of practice until the year 1846, when the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly was authorized to cause an inquiry to be made into the system pursued in the House of Commons, with a view to the preparation of a system of Standing Orders and practice adapted to the circumstances of the Province.† The result of this was laid on the table of the House in the following Session, in the shape of a Report, prepared by Mr. Alpheus Todd, the present Librarian of the Canadian House of Commons, giving a full and lucid explanation of the system of practice in operation

Alpheus Todd's Report on Private Bill Practice.

* May, p. 633.

Assembly Journ., 1846, p. 344.