

*THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION OF 1888.*

THE Supplement of the *Ontario Gazette* for the 31st March last, contains the principal Acts passed at the recent session of the Provincial Legislature.

The number of Acts of general interest is somewhat less than usual, and even these are of trifling importance. Chapter 6, is an attempt to clear up the shrievalty of York muddle. We have always thought, and still think, it was a great mistake to carve out of the York shrievalty that of the city of Toronto. The affairs of the county and city are so mixed up and intermingled, that the creation of two distinct offices is tolerably sure to lead to more or less confusion. If, as was generally admitted, the emoluments of the office had become too large, it would, if it were thought desirable to have two officers to do the work, have been feasible to have appointed two sheriffs of York, giving them joint authority and an equal share of the emoluments, and an equal liability for the due performance of the duties of the office, leaving them to arrange between themselves such a division of the duties as they pleased. Such an arrangement would have, at all events, saved a great deal of trouble as regards the public. But it would have been better still, and more in the interest of the public, to have refrained from making any division of the office, or appointing any additional sheriff, and to let there be but one sheriff as formerly, and simply provided that such portion of the fees as exceeded a given amount should be applied to some public use, in a similar way to that in which the surplus fees of the registry offices are disposed of. This Act can hardly be said to simplify matters very much. It defines certain duties to be discharged by the sheriffs of York and Toronto respectively. Section 8, which relates to executions, provides that if any further portion of the county of York is annexed to the city of Toronto, the Sheriff of York is to transmit to the Sheriff of Toronto a list of all executions in his hands, and also notice of the renewal of any such writ. And that the Sheriff of Toronto, if there are no writs against a given person in his hands, is to certify that there are no executions in his office against such person, notwithstanding the name of such person may appear on the list transmitted to him by the Sheriff of York. This section seems to us likely to cause difficulty and misunderstanding. A person may be buying a parcel of land in a tract recently added to the city, and a certificate from the Sheriff of Toronto may be produced, showing that there are no executions in his hands against the vendor, while all the time there may be executions in the hands of the Sheriff of York which will bind the property. Of course, people are always supposed to know the law and to be expert lawyers, but as a matter of fact, we know this is very far from being the case. In spite of the presumption to the contrary, people will be found who will conclude that a certificate from the sheriff in whose bailiwick the land is situate, is sufficient as in other cases, and will probably find out their mistake when it is too late. The tenth section provides that unsatisfied writs in the hands of the Sheriff of York at the time of the appointment of the Sheriff of Toronto, are not to bind lands in Toronto after one year from the passing of this Act, unless before the expira-