

the records of House) as it sets forth some constitutional principles which it might have been awkward to gainsay.

What the future of such legislation may be we do not venture to prophesy, but it would have been well for the credit of the country if it had never been introduced.

DOMINION LEGISLATION.

It is important to know what the law is, but it is no less important, perhaps, that those specially concerned—we refer to the legal profession—should be enabled to keep track of proposed legislation, both for the purpose of checking objectionable measures and of knowing in advance what the law is likely to be. To this end we give a resumé of the legislation already introduced into each House of Parliament during the present session, with such comments as the proposed measures seem to suggest.

The present session has been called a “business session,” and the expression is not inappropriate. It is the first session of the eleventh Parliament, and the new members have brought forward some of the more important subjects which, perhaps, have been pressed upon their attention during the recent campaign. On the other hand, the Government appears to be introducing only such measures as it expects to put through, leaving contentious legislation for another year.

Public bills may be divided, in general terms, into the following classes:—(a) Bills which the Government introduces and desires to pass; (b) Bills which the Government seeks an expression of opinion upon, with a view to future legislation (e.g., the Insurance Bill of the last Parliament); (c) Bills which private members really desire to become law, either for the public good or in the interests of their constituents; and (d) Bills which private members introduce for the purpose of gaining the votes of some particular class of their constituents, and without any care whether or not a second reading, even, is ever obtained. Classes (a) and (c) are the largest, but class (d) is not a small one.