

## THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE ACT—OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

Boyle Roche's ideas, when he exclaimed, "What has posterity ever done for us?" We question the wisdom of this legislation.

To return to our *moutons*. Provision is made for additional Assizes in Middlesex and Hamilton, and such other places as the judges may appoint. Amendments are then made to the Jurors' Act of 1883. Then there is a clause enabling Courts of Record, and judges of Division Courts having cognizance of penal actions, to remit the penalties recovered in such actions wholly or in part, whether payable to the Crown, or an informer.

The next subject legislated upon is the Accountant of the Supreme Court, who is created a corporation sole; and the moneys now in the Court of Appeal, and hereafter to be paid into that Court, are to be placed under his control. The Accountant's office is therefore now constituted the sole office in which moneys are to be paid into, or out of Court, for both the Court of Appeal and the several Divisions of the High Court.

Having disposed of the Accountant, the extension of the jurisdiction of the County Judges and Local Masters to which we have referred is provided for, and then power to tax costs, including counsel fees, is given to Deputy Clerks of the Crown, Local Masters, and Local Registrars, in all cases begun or pending in their offices, subject only to appeal to a judge. Why Deputy Registrars are excluded from the category of officers entitled to tax does not appear, and we are equally in the dark whether it is intended to abolish revision in those cases where it is by the Judicature Rules made compulsory. Further provisions are then made respecting County Court appeals, in a way which seems to indicate that it is special legislation to meet some particular difficulty.

Powers are given to make Surrogate Court Rules, and to frame a tariff of fees for Courts of General Sessions of the

Peace and Surrogate Courts, which we trust may be exercised in a liberal spirit, and thus remedy a long standing grievance. The present tariff is an absurdity. Provision is then made for the appointment of official interpreters: and the next section enables the Court or Judge to exclude any creditor who refuses to join in contesting a claim under section 10 of the Interpleader Act from any benefit resulting from the contestation.

Then comes an increase of Sheriff's fees in criminal proceedings and a clause relating to gaols in Nipissing, and another enabling Stipendiary Magistrates in districts to act as coroners. Then comes a provision for affixing stamps on proceedings insufficiently stamped.

A growing tendency of some Judges to prolong the sittings of Court to unreasonable hours, gives rise to the next clause, which provides that when any such sittings are prolonged after eight p.m., an additional allowance to any officer paid by *per diem* allowance may be made upon the certificate of the presiding judge. We think it would have been far better to pass an act expressly prohibiting judges from sitting after six o'clock, p.m., or holding Court on any day appointed to be observed as a public holiday. The remaining sections apply to Justices of the Peace.

## OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

UPON a very quiet time in the Courts has followed a chapter teeming with incidents of a more or less sensational character. First, came the great Durham Divorce case, then the horse-flesh libel case, and then the action between the pot and the kettle represented respectively by the editor and proprietor of *The World*, and the some-time editor of the *Whitehall Review*. The Durham divorce case,