

An Act respecting persons in custody, charged with high treason or felony—another measure to ensure the safe keeping of those afflicted with the Fenian disorder or otherwise dangerous to the well being of the state.

An Act to amend the law respecting the appointment of Recorders.

An Act to amend the Act respecting the administration of justice in the unorganized tracts.

An Act to amend the law respecting appeals in cases of summary convictions and returns thereof by justices. This will be interesting to magistrates, and is given in full in another place.

The Act of most general importance to the country at large is the Municipal Act; but it is of too much importance to be hastily disposed of in a short summary like this. Of a cognate nature is the act to amend and consolidate the assessment acts.

Farmers and others in that line will be interested doubtless in an amendment of the act for the protection of sheep; which, by the way, stood in need of some amendment. We publish this act in another column.

Office-seekers in general, and office-seekers amongst the lawyers in particular, will be somewhat exercised by the act to complete the separation of the County of Peel from the County of York. There seems to us to be but little use in the separation of Peel from York except the formation of a few more offices; but the separation is an accomplished fact, and it only remains for us to hope that proper and efficient officers will be found to administer the affairs, judicial and otherwise, of the County of Peel. Of one thing we are confident, and that is, that it will be long before one is found to preside over the new courts with the same kind courtesy, sound common sense, and judicial capacity, as the gentleman who has for so many years sat as the County Judge of the United Counties of York and Peel.

Of the Bills that have *not* become law it is idle to speak. If they are of sufficiently good material they will probably keep till a session of what is likely to be a differently constituted Parliament meets for the despatch of business at Toronto; but if not, they will go to swell that immense mass of rubbish, by means of which certain would-be legislators prove their legislative incapacity, and whereby the Queen's Printers grow fat.

BAILIFFS AND THEIR FEES.

During the hard times resulting from over-speculation, and from an unreasonable extension of the credit system throughout Upper Canada, the number of suits that were entered in the various Division Courts was unprecedented and prodigious. Nearly every claim that merchants, tradesmen, or mechanics had was put into the shape of a judgment, and this over and above the legitimate every day collection business of a healthy trade, as well as the disputed cases which have been, are, and always will be brought before the courts of a country for adjudication.

The natural consequence of all this was enormously to increase the emoluments of all officers paid by fees—a system of remuneration which, as observed by Mr. O'Brien in his Division Court Manual, is open to very grave objections, and one which we venture to say is not looked upon with nearly as much favor by officers now as it was at the time we have referred to. This falling off in the business of the courts, and its consequent effect upon the remuneration of the officers of Division Courts, has been, doubtless, one of the principal reasons for bringing prominently into discussion the tariff of fees which regulates this remuneration. We do not for a moment assert that the subject is a new one, or that justice to all parties did not in the busy times require some modification in the tariff, but it is evident that the subject is one of more vital consequence *now* to these officers than it could have been *then*.

It is scarcely necessary for us to urge the necessity of paying public officers well for the services they render; this is patent to any careful observer. The following are some observations of a cotemporary on this matter where it is put fairly enough:—

“We should like to see these officers, as well as all others, paid liberally for the duties they have to perform, according to their labor, or the extent of their responsibility, and not only as a measure of justice to them, but as a measure of protection to the public; it being, we consider, the worst possible policy to ask any class of men to perform unremunerative services, as it not only offers a temptation to shirk the duties of the office, but also to seek opportunities of compensating themselves in a manner not allowed by law, and therefore not justifiable.”

We may, therefore, with some profit examine in what way, if at all, this tariff of fees