

By c. 30, The Chartered Stenographic Reporters' Association of Ontario is incorporated.

By c. 34 the law of directors' liability is made more stringent. It also provides for the right of directors who have become liable under the act to recover contribution from co-directors.

C. 38, An Act respecting Loan Companies. This act is substantially a re-enactment, with certain changes and additions, of those sections of The Companies Act (Dom.) which relate to loan companies (R.S.C., c. 119, ss. 86-103). Previous to the passing of this act, loan companies might be incorporated either by the Act respecting Building Societies or the Joint Stock Companies Act. The former of these being found too restrictive and the latter not sufficiently so, this present act was the result. It is to be noted that the Ontario act applies only to loan companies which may hereafter be incorporated, and that it does not apply to companies incorporated under the Act respecting Building Societies, unless expressly mentioned.

The Municipal Act, of course, comes in for its share of amendments, which will this year fill fourteen pages of the Statute Book. The amendment of most general interest is section 35, which does away with the effect of the much canvassed case of *Cumberland v. Kearns*, 18 O.R. 151; 17 A.R. 281, by enacting that charges on land for local improvements shall not, except as to arrears, come within the scope of the ordinary vendor's covenant against encumbrances. The wording of the section is clumsy, and might lead one to suppose that it is intended also to overrule *Re Graydon and Hammill*, 20 O.R. 199, in which it was held that, as between vendor and purchaser, before the completion of the contract, local improvement rates are encumbrances which the vendor is bound to remove. Possibly such was the intention of the draughtsman—the use of the words "vendor or person agreeing to sell" seems to point to an uncompleted contract rather than to one which has been completed by conveyance—but we think that it will be found that *Re Graydon and Hammill* is still law.

The Drainage Trials Act provides for the appointment of a referee for the purpose of The Ontario Drainage Act and ss. 569 *et seq.* of The Municipal Act. Mr. B. M. Britton, Q.C., of Kingston, has been chosen to fill the position. As the referee has, in effect, all the powers of a judge, it would seem to us that it is open to question whether the Legislature is not again acting *ultra vires*. The fact that he is called a referee does not any the less constitute him a judge.

C. 52 imposes a penalty for the destruction of the plant called Ginseng, the cultivation and care of which for medical purposes has become quite an industry in some places.

By c. 55 the Public Schools Acts are consolidated. An Act respecting Truancy and Compulsory School Attendance is taken principally from the old Public Schools Act. C. 57 consolidates and revises the High Schools Act. The remaining statutes do not seem to call for any special mention.