

# Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XLVII.

TORONTO, MAY 15.

No. 10.

## THE LEGISLATION OF LAST SESSION.

The Ontario statutes passed at the late session of the Legislature have been issued with commendable promptness. The legislative labour has resulted in a volume of 1,000 pages.

Among the noticeable Acts of the session is that relating to the protection of the public interests in the bed of navigable waters (chapter 6), which, however, is not to take effect until proclaimed by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. The policy of this Act is to protect the water powers of the country from being monopolized by private individuals to the prejudice of the public, and it has practically reversed the rule of the common law, that the grant of land on the banks of a navigable stream entitles the grantee to the bed of the stream *ad medium filum*. Some objection has been made to this legislation on the ground of its interference with private rights, but reasonable protection seems to be provided for any existing rights and the Act will prevent the future acquisition of such rights to the prejudice of the public.

As usual we have a Statute Law Amendment Act (chapter 17), a sort of omnibus Act amending sections in many statutes, arranged apparently wherever possible on a sort of crab-like principle, viz., so that you may go backwards instead of forwards. If, for instance, two sections in a statute are to be amended, the latter one is first amended and then the earlier, e.g., to take a few specimens, s. 7 amends s. 21 of 8 Edw. VII. c. 28, and the following section then adds sec. 20a to the same statute; s. 9 (1) amends ss. 73, 141, 154 of 7 Edw. VII. c. 34, then subsecs. 2 and 3 make further amendments in s. 73; s. 15 (2) amends s. 4 of 9 Edw. VII. c. 72; and sec. 16, then amends 9 Edw. VII. c. 70; ss. 20-28 amend various statutes of 10 Edw. VII.; then s. 29 amends an Act of 9 Edw. VII.; s. 31 (3) amends s. 88 of