

## STATUTES OF CANADA—31 VIC.

The Statutes of Canada, passed in the first part of the Session, have been issued in a separate volume. The Imperial Act for the union of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick is prefixed to the volume, together with the Act for authorizing a guarantee of interest on the Intercolonial Railway Loan. Then follows the Imperial Act passed 20th August, 1867, to amend the Merchant Shipping Act of 1854.

The Acts passed in the first part of the first session of the first Parliament of Canada are twenty-one in number.

Cap. 1. An Act respecting the Statutes of Canada. This settles the form of the enacting clause, the interpretation to be given to various words and phrases, &c., the word "holiday" being made to include two new holidays, namely, Easter Monday and Ash Wednesday.

Cap. II. An Act respecting the office of Speaker of the House of Commons of the Dominion of Canada, provides that the Speaker leaving the Chair may call upon a member to act as Speaker during his absence.

Cap. III. An Act relating to the indemnity to members, and the salaries of the Speakers, of both Houses of Parliament.

Sec. 1 of this Act continues the ridiculous provision by which members of the Senate and of the House of Commons receive \$6 per diem, if the Session does not extend beyond thirty days; but if the Session extends beyond thirty days, then each member is entitled to \$600 for the Session. The practical effect of this grotesque enactment is that there never is nor ever will be a Session of less than 30 days, while desperate efforts are constantly made by the unscrupulous to split the business of every year into two Sessions.

Sec. 12 fixes the salaries of the Speakers of the two Houses at \$3,200 each.

Cap. IV. An Act for granting Supplies, 1867-8.

Cap. V. An Act respecting the collection of the Revenue, &c.

Cap. VI. An Act respecting the Customs.

Cap. VII. An Act imposing Duties of Customs, with the Tariff of Duties payable under it.

Cap. VIII. An Act respecting the Inland Revenue.

Cap. IX. An Act to impose duties on Promissory Notes and Bills of Exchange. The duty on notes is, one cent on a note of \$25; two cents from \$25 to \$50; three cents from \$50 to \$100; and over \$100, three cents for each \$100 or fraction of \$100. The proper mode of cancelling the stamps is for the maker to write his initials on them; or, to write or stamp the date on them. It is not necessary to both initial and date.

Cap. X. An Act for the regulation of the Postal Service. This Act introduced several important changes, which are too well known to require repetition. The most salutary and liberal provision was the reduction of letter postage from five cents to three cents per half ounce.

Sections 62-75 provide for Post Office Savings Banks, which will pay four per cent interest to depositors. This makes the interest one cent per month on every three dollars. As no fraction of three dollars is taken into account, and neither the month of deposit nor the month of withdrawal, the calculation of interest becomes a very simple matter. It was proposed, we believe, to make these deposits *insaisissable* by garnishment, lest the department should be incommoded by attachments; but this iniquitous proposition failed to become law. Monthly statements of these deposits are to be published in the *Canada Gazette*, and will be looked for with much interest.

Cap. XI. An Act respecting Banks. Sec. 17 provides that no Bank shall, after the passing of this Act, incur any penalty or forfeiture for usury; and any Bank may stipulate for, take, reserve or exact any rate of interest or discount not exceeding seven per centum per annum, and may receive and take in advance any such rate, but no higher rate of interest shall be recoverable by any Bank.

Cap. XII. An Act respecting the Public Works of Canada.