

PROVINCIAL STATUTES - ONTARIO.

The volume of the Ontario Statutes passed at the last session of the Legislature, which closed on 27th April, has been issued with commendable promptness. It contains over 640 pages. Not only has great expedition been used in publishing this volume by the first week in June, but it also bears evidence of more than the customary care in compilation. It will be found that as a rule all amendments are arranged in the proper sequence, and the labour of noting the changes in the R.S.O. is thereby greatly facilitated. And, moreover, the substitution of buckram for the cover, in lieu of the former half leather and cloth, bids fair to prove a great improvement and add very much to the durability of the book.

We must demur to the expression "Alcoholic and drug habituates," to be found in chap. 64. This use of the word "habituate" is, we believe, novel and without precedent—Murray's Oxford Dictionary only gives the word as an adjective, and a verb, but not as a noun. This extraordinary use of the word may necessitate another Act to define what is meant by an "alcoholic habituate," as it does not seem to be definable by the ordinary usage of the English language.

With regard to the various statutes contained in the volume the most noticeable is probably the Temperance Act, which is to take effect on 16th September next. The Act contains a provision for voting for its repeal, but the clause providing for repeal, we notice, contains a blank which appears to have been overlooked: s. 147 (4), and it consequently reads "such repeal shall take effect at the expiration of _____ months thereafter or at such earlier date as may be fixed" by His Honour in Council by proclamation. How there can be an earlier date than month will be hard to settle.

The Companies Amending Act contains a provision which virtually does away with the differences which the Judicial Committee recently pointed out as existing between the relative capacities of corporations created by charter and those created by statute: see 6 Geo. V, c. 35, s. 6. This enactment, it will be observed, applies to all companies heretofore or hereafter created by statute of the former Province of Canada, or of Ontario.