

## LAW ACTS OF LAST SESSION.

## DIARY FOR APRIL.

1. Wed.. Local School Superintendent's term of office begins.
5. SUN.. *6th Sunday in Lent.*
6. Mon.. County Court and Surrog. Court Term begins.
7. Tues.. Local Trustees to return arrears of taxes due to County Treasurer.
10. Frid.. *Good Friday.*
11. Sat.. County Court and Surrogate Court Term ends.
12. SUN.. *Easter Sunday.*
13. Mon.. *Easter Monday.*
19. SUN.. *1st Sunday after Easter.*
23. Thurs. *St. George.*
25. Sat.. *St. Mark.*
26. SUN.. *2nd Sunday after Easter.*
29. Wed.. Appeals from Chancery Chambers.
30. Thurs. Last day for non-residents to give list of lands or app. from assessmt. Last day for Local Clerks to ret. occu. lands to Co. Treasurer.

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It cannot be said to be too late to refer to the law legislation of the Session of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which closed in the beginning of March last, when the public have not yet been placed in a position, by the publication of the statutes by the proper authorities, to judge of what was then done. But for some, to us at least, unknown reason, the majority of those who are required to obey the law are still unprovided by those who have made them, with the usual means of instructing themselves in what the law, by an amusing fiction, says we knew, marked, learned and inwardly digested on the fourth day of March last.

We have done what we could to supply our subscribers with copies of such of the acts as seemed of the most importance, but this is necessarily only a partial benefit. We trust that it may not be long before a large issue of the first volume of the Statutes for the Province of Ontario may be distributed. Economy in matters of this kind is but short-sighted policy, whilst delay is a great evil.

The difficulties that may arise from want of a prompt distribution of the Statutes, are increased by their having come into operation immediately upon receiving the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor. This remark is particularly applicable to such an act as that relating to executions against goods and lands, for, from what we have already seen, it seems highly

probable that many execution creditors have not retained the priority to which they were entitled, merely because they did not know (and could not very well have ascertained in some cases) that an alteration had been made in the law by the act referred to.

A stranger to our laws might have supposed, judging from the mass of Bills introduced during the Session, that the laws of this country were in a most defective state, and that, but for the energy of the new Parliament, the population in general would have been in a bad way. But things are not so bad as that, nor is it every change in a law that is beneficial, and we were glad to notice that as a rule the members, with a few notable exceptions, did not fail to remember that there is now no check in hasty legislation in the shape of a second House.

In addition to the acts published in our last issue, we may notice the Registry act, which makes several changes rendered necessary by the great want of care displayed in the former act. It cannot be said that the present measure is now perfect, but perfection, or anything in the neighbourhood of it, is not to be expected in such a difficult branch of the law as that affecting and affected by the Registration of titles. One great source of difficulty might perhaps be remedied by degrees, by the appointment of thoroughly qualified professional men as Registrars, competent to judge of the many points of real property law that so frequently arise in the conduct of the business of a registry office, and to put a reasonable interpretation upon the act. A proper step has been taken in a different direction by preventing Registrars or their subordinates from acting as conveyancers; a wholesome provision, which we shall be glad to see extended to others outside registry offices, many of whom, though thoroughly incompetent even to do the simplest species of conveyancing, hesitate not to draw special deeds and wills, the form and effect of which would cause much anxious thought and care even to a well educated lawyer.

There is also—An act to amend the Municipal Institutions Act of 1866: an enactment which does not pretend to be anything more than a temporary measure to remedy a few prominent defects in that act; full legislation on the subject is to abide the results of extended enquiries into the municipal system. Also