

pointment will be such as will be thoroughly satisfactory to the profession and the public.

We direct attention to the remarks of a correspondent on the operation of the Insolvent Act, and particularly with reference to what he says with reference to the anomalous position in which official assignees place themselves by a desire to increase their business and their fees.

The present system, it is said, tends to make those assignees, who live by the number of assignments made to them, the agents rather of insolvents than of their creditors. Nothing is more probable than this, and our correspondent forcibly points out the evils arising from it. There is a strong temptation placed in the way of an assignee to facilitate the success of the insolvent in obtaining his discharge, at the expense of the right which creditors have to obtain as much as possible from the insolvent's estate.

#### ACTS OF LAST SESSION.

We make room in this number for some of the Acts of the Session of the Parliament of Ontario, which has just closed. Promptitude on our part in this respect will be the more appreciated as these Acts, so far as we know, came into operation on the day they were assented to, and therefore long before the public could obtain copies of them. We must confess that we are unable to discover the necessity for the *immediate* operation of any of them; if they were to come into force a month or two hence, when they might be ready for general distribution, no harm would have been done, and perhaps much mischief prevented, which may have arisen from the want of knowledge of their contents.

Headlong legislation seems to be the order of the day, and we shall have to bestir ourselves to keep in view the actual state of the statute law through the cloud of acts, passed and promised, which our "new brooms" have stirred up.

The Municipal Act must lie over for notice until next month.

#### AN ACT

*To secure Free Grants and Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Lands.*

[Assented to March 4, 1868.]

Her Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

1. This Act shall be called and known as "The Free Grants and Homestead Act of 1868," and may be so cited or designated in all Acts or proceedings whatsoever.

2. The Statute of the Parliament of the late Province of Canada, passed in the twenty-third year of Her Majesty's Reign, entitled "An Act respecting the Sale and Management of the Public Lands," may be cited and designated in all Acts and proceedings as "The Public Lands Act of 1860," and is the Act hereinafter so designated.

3. The thirteenth section of "The Public Lands Act of 1860" is hereby repealed, except that Patents may issue for all lands heretofore located as free grants under that section, as if this Act had not been passed.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appropriate any Public Lands considered suitable for settlement and cultivation, and not being Mineral Lands or Pine Timber Lands, as Free Grants to actual Settlers, under such regulations as shall from time to time be made by Order in Council, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

5. Such grants or appropriations shall be confined to lands surveyed or hereafter to be surveyed, situate within the tract or territory composed of the Districts of Algoma and Nipissing, and of the lands lying between the Ottawa River and the Georgian Bay, to the west of a line drawn from a point opposite the south-east angle of the Township of Palmerston north-westerly along the western boundaries of the Townships of North Sherbrooke, Lavant, Blichfield, Admaston, Bromley, Stafford and Pembroke to the Ottawa River, and to the north of the rear or northerly boundaries of the Townships of Oso, Olden, Kennebec, Kaladar, Elzevir, Madoc, Marmora, Belmont, Dummer, Smith, Ennismore, Sommerville, Laxton, Carden, Rama, and of the River Severn.

6. The person to whom any land may be allotted or assigned under such regulations for a free grant thereof, shall be considered as located for said land within the meaning of this Act, and is hereinafter called the *Locatee* thereof.

7. No person shall be located for any land under this Act or said regulations unless such person shall be of the age of eighteen years or upwards, nor shall any person be so located for any greater quantity than one hundred acres.

8. Before any person shall be located for any land as aforesaid, such person shall make affidavit to be deposited with the Agent authorized to make such location, that he or she has not been located for any land under this Act or under said regulations, and that he or she is of the age of eighteen years or upwards, and believes the land for which he or she applies or desires to be located, is suited for settlement and cultivation, and is not valuable chiefly for its mines minerals or pine timber, and that such location is desired for his or her benefit and for the purpose of actual settlement and cultivation of such land, and not either