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ALTERNATE SESSIONS—BIENNIAL SESSIONS—LEGISLATIVE UNION.

BY S. J. WATSON, TORONTO.

THE attention of the people of Ontario has, at intervals, during the past few years, been turned toward the agencies by which they govern themselves. Thus the questions of Biennial Sessions of the Local Parliament; the Diminution of the Representation; the adoption of Legislative Union, have arisen to the dignity of discussion as subjects of public interest. The chief aim of the present article is to make an effort to contribute to the Constitutional literature of those great factors in the problem of free Parliamentary Government, in the Pillar Province of the Canadian Confederation.

ALTERNATE SESSIONS.

At the opening of the Parliament of Ontario, on the 13th of January, 1881, Lieut. - Governor Robinson, in the speech from the throne, said :—

‘ In view of the many extensive and beneficial improvements in our laws,

effected since the Province attained, thirteen years ago, control over its local affairs, and of the further legislation which will engage your attention during the present Session, I commend to your serious consideration the question whether the time has not come when the public interests may be sufficiently protected, and at the same time a considerable saving of expense be effected, by confining future legislation to every alternate annual session, except in cases of special urgency.’

It may prove of interest to reproduce, in an abridged form, the opinions expressed by leading members of the House, on the subject of a change in the mode of holding the Sessions of the Parliament of Ontario.

Mr. Meredith, the leader of the Opposition, took ground against the proposal. ‘ He believed it would not obtain the assent of the supporters of the Government, and it certainly would not