

## ONTARIO LEGISLATION.

"An Act to make provision in regard to certain legal matters," extends their powers to County Courts. It also removes doubts, which we believe were entertained by some of the judges, as to their authority to issue commissions for taking affidavits, since the merger of the Supreme Courts into the High Court of Justice.

Chapter 12, "An Act respecting the restitution of stolen goods." Upon the arrest of persons for larceny and other similar offences, stolen property belonging to many different people is frequently found in the criminal's possession. We understand that in one of our western towns, as many as forty charges were laid against one person for stealing from different individuals. The prosecutors naturally desired to get back their goods, and took this means to obtain a summary remedy, as a judge had, under the Dominion Act, no authority to make a summary order of restitution, unless where the party is actually tried in respect of the larceny of the particular goods embraced in the order. Of course it is simply absurd that the expense and inconvenience of a criminal trial should be incurred for this purpose alone. The present Act meets the difficulty, and enables the judge, after the prisoner has been convicted in one or more charges, to try his right to property so found in his possession and that of the claimant in a summary way. The order made, however, does not finally preclude the prisoner, as he may afterwards recover the goods in question from the person to whom their delivery is directed. The judge also may, if he thinks fit, before making an order, require the claimant to give security for the return of the property to the person convicted, in case the latter should thereafter be held entitled. These provisions were obviously inserted in view of the fact, that a person in custody does not possess the usual facilities for defending his rights. We notice that a section has also been added, reserving the right of the Crown to claim any property of a convict as forfeited for felony.

Chapter 14 is a repetition, verbatim we believe, of the vetoed Act of last Session, entitled "An Act for protecting the public interest in Rivers, Streams and Creeks." As our readers are aware, the Court of Appeal has since the Act was disallowed by the Dominion Government, declared the law to be substantially in accordance with what is alleged in this bill. The question, however, is still pending before the Supreme Court, and it is not improbable that the Dominion Government will refrain from taking any action in respect of this statute until that Court gives judgment.

Chapter 15, "The Mechanics' Lien Act, 1882." This Act extends the protection heretofore given to mechanics, and gives to them to the extent of thirty days' wages, a lien which operates notwithstanding an agreement between the owner and contractor for excluding a lien. This wages lien takes priority over all other liens under the former Act, and over any claim by the owner against the contractor in consequence of the failure of the latter to complete his contract. The affidavit of verification required by the Mechanics' Lien Act is very much shortened. Several persons are permitted to join in one statement of claim. Copying in registry book is dispensed with, and the Sheriff's fees are reduced to twenty-five cents.

Chapter 17, "The Joint Stock Companies Act, 1882." This Act is an important addition to joint stock companies legislation. It authorizes Courts to accept Trusts Companies, which have been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, as executors, administrators, trustees, receivers, guardians of infants, or committees of lunatics. No company, however, can exercise any of these offices which has issued or is authorized to issue debentures. Hitherto, wherever a company has been incorporated by a special Act, it has been necessary to apply to the Legislature to vary any of its provisions. The present Act gives the Lieutenant-Governor in Council authority, by letters patent, to vary