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DIARY FOR MAY.

17. Sun.....1st Sunday after Ascension. Cameron, C.J., C. P., 1884. D. A. Macdonald, Lieut.-Gov. Ont., 1875.
18. Mon.....Easter Sitting of Common Law Divisions, H.C. J. begin.
21. Thur.....Confederation proclaimed, 1867.
22. Fri.....Lord Dufferin, Gov.-Gen. 1872.
24. Sun.....2nd Sunday after Ascension, Queen Victoria born, 1819. Ferguson, V.-C., 1881.
25. Mon.....Princess Helena born, 1846.
30. Sat.....Proudfoot, V.-C., 1874.
31. Sun.....Trinity Sunday. Parliament first met at Toronto, 1797.

TORONTO, MAY 15, 1885.

SOME interesting statistics were unearthed in the Senate of the Dominion during a recent debate on the subject of legislation in the Senate. The following is an extract from the speech of an honourable member who was urging the desirability of initiating, as far as possible, private bills in the upper chamber:—

Since Confederation the Dominion Parliament has passed more than 1,400 Acts, of which 650 have been for private purposes, such as the incorporation of railway, banking, loan, insurance and other companies. The Legislatures of the different Provinces, since Confederation, up to 1884, have passed the following number of Acts:—Ontario, 1,358; Quebec, 1,105; Nova Scotia, 1,414; New Brunswick, 1,302; Prince Edward Island, since 1873, since it came into the Union, 313; Manitoba, 477; British Columbia, 324; and of those Acts 31 have been disallowed. In all 6,293 Acts have been passed, and but 31 have been disallowed by the Dominion Government, namely:—Ontario, 5; Quebec, 2; Nova Scotia 5; New Brunswick, none; Prince Edward Island, none; Manitoba, 7; and British Columbia, 12. It shows, therefore, I think most conclusively that the working of the system under which we are confederated has been upon the whole greatly harmonious, and that there has been no friction in the machinery which is worthy of notice. I think it is an important item in considering the effect of the important clauses by which special subjects of legislation are assigned

to the Provinces, where one might suppose that there sometimes would be a straining of the relations between the Provinces and the Dominion, and where it has been asserted in some quarters that there has been a straining of such relations. It is most remarkable to notice how few Acts have been passed in any Province that have been objected to by the Dominion Government; and when we consider that the terms of Confederation giving to the Provinces special subjects of legislation, reserved not only specified legislative powers for the Dominion, but gave it powers over all subjects which were not specially given to the Provinces, it is marvellous that the Provinces in their legislation have kept so closely within constitutional limits, and so closely confined themselves to the exercise of the powers which were given them by the constitution as only to have exceeded them in this vast amount of legislation—in the opinion of those who are charged with the revision of their Acts—to the extent which I have stated here. I think it is a matter for congratulation with every one who wishes the confederation of these Provinces well, and who has a desire to perpetuate it, that so far there has been so little friction in the movements of the machinery.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

THE assizes are now in full swing; or, as the organs of popular opinion have it, the circuit nuisance has set in with its usual severity. In the matter of gaol deliveries the system of grouped assizes is, I think, exceptionally unfair to prisoners, in a manner which may best be shown by concrete example. Two or three days ago your correspondent heard a boy tried for burglary, of which the net results were five shillings in copper, a bottle of rum and nine months' imprisonment. The evidence consisted in the possession of about five shillings in copper, and in intoxication. The prisoner asserted that the vast wealth had been