

DIARY FOR JUNE.

1. Mon. Paper Day Q. B. New Trial Day C. P. Last day not trial for C. C. Recorder's Court sits.
2. Tues. Paper Day C. P. New Trial Day Q. B.
3. Wed. New Trial Day C. P.
4. Thurs. Re-hearing Term commences.
5. Frid. New Trial Day Q. B.
6. Sat. Easter Term ends.
7. SUN. *Trinity Sunday.*
8. Tues. Quarter Sessions and C. C. sittings in each Co.
9. Thurs. *St. Barnabas.*
10. SUN. *1st Sunday after Trinity.*
11. Sat. Accession of Queen Victoria, 1837.
12. SUN. *2nd Sunday after Trinity.* Longest Day.
13. Wed. *St. John Baptist.* Appeals from Chancery Cham.
14. SUN. *3rd Sunday after Trinity*
15. Mon. *St. Peter.*
16. Tues. Half-yearly School Returns to be made.—Dep. Registrar in Chancery to make returns and pay over fees.

The Local Courts'

AND

MUNICIPAL GAZETTE.

JUNE, 1868.

STATUTE BOOK OF ONTARIO.

The Statutes of the first Session of the first Parliament of Ontario have at length been issued—we may perhaps add, distributed, though, it does not appear to be the intention of the Government to supply them to Magistrates and others in the same lavish way that the General Statutes used to be. The tenth Section of the Interpretation Act makes a general provision for the distribution of the printed Statutes, directing copies to be sent to members of the Legislative Assembly in such numbers as may be ordered by resolution of the house or by order in council, and to such of the public departments, administrative bodies and offices, throughout the Dominion, as may be specified by order in Council.

Under the provisions of this Section the Statutes have been, and are to be disposed of as follows:—

One copy is to be sent free to each member of the Senate, and of the Commons of Canada, and four copies to every member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Every official in each County in Ontario and heads of governmental departments are also to have a copy. Magistrates have to buy their copies at the reduced price of fifty cents each, but it is only duly qualified magistrates that are allowed this privilege; and to carry out this arrangement the Clerks of the Peace are to be supplied with copies for this purpose. The trade

have to pay one dollar each for the statutes, which they again retail at any advance of twenty-five cents.

We understand the actual cost of the statutes, including binding, has been very small, and that the government will not be losers even at the reduced rate at which magistrates are supplied. Magistrates will therefore think it hard that they have to provide themselves with copies for the use of the public; and with those who often, at much loss of time, ease and money, conscientiously perform their duties, not as a means of thereby obtaining a livelihood or making their office a source of profit, we most heartily sympathise, and it does seem a small thing in economy to make a few dollars out of them.

But there is, we are afraid, another side to the picture, which has, perhaps, caused the government, in its zeal to economise the public money, to take too strong grounds against magistrates as a class. It cannot be denied that there a large number of persons on the commission who are utterly unfit to perform, with credit to themselves or benefit of the public, the duties of their office; and it is equally true that many men, with more ambition than self knowledge, make great exertions to obtain the honor of writing J. P. after their names, and that others look upon the office as a means of "turning an honest penny," instead of doing something more suited to their education and habits.

The existence of these things, however, proves even more than any government ought to be obliged to admit, namely, that there has been some mistake in the system, or mode of carrying it out, whereby these appointments have been made, and not merely that there are black sheep in every flock. But we are wandering from the subject before us. What we should wish to see would be, that every facility should be given to at least those who are really desirous of doing their duty properly for the good of the community.

We do not understand that Municipal Councils are included in those who are to receive copies gratis. If not, we suppose it is on the principle that doing so would be "robbing Peter to pay Paul," at least so long as the members of Councils do not subscribe for price of copies out of their own pockets.

To conclude—it is, in our opinion, wrong, in principle, that there should be any unnecessary restriction upon the widest diffusion