

than a temporary measure to remedy a few prominent defects in that act; full legislation on the subject is to abide the results of extended enquiries into the municipal system. Also an act to provide for the organization of the territorial district of Muskoka, and the appointment of a stipendiary magistrate (an office which has been filled by the appointment of Charles W. Lount, Esq., Barrister-at-law, and an act respecting the interpretation and construction of Statutes.

Of the bills which did *not* become law—and their name in the aggregate was legion—we may refer to the following:

A bill to amend the law of evidence, by allowing parties to suits to testify on their own behalf, is the most important. This proposed measure has been so freely discussed that it is not now intended to refer to it further than to express our opinion that, however proper such a law is in theory, and consonant as it is with our convictions as to what the law ought to be under other circumstances, and however well it may have worked in England, it is not a measure which, in the present state of things would be expedient here; though the time may come when the alteration of existing circumstances of the country, (which however we cannot at present discuss at sufficient length,) would change the balance in favor of the passing of such a measure as was proposed, and, after much careful consideration, rejected.

The following are also amongst the Bills that did not become law—A bill to abolish the Heir and Devisee Commission, and give the like powers to Judges in Chambers, which would facilitate business and save time to applicants—A bill to amend the Act respecting Division Courts, containing some valuable and well drawn clauses, reflecting much credit upon its introducer, Mr. Coyne, but which, as a whole, it was best not to pass—A bill to provide for the attachment of debts in Division Courts; a very useful provision, if the benefit is not swallowed up in expenses—A bill to amend the Act for the Protection of Sheep, which it seems impossible to get exactly as it ought to be—Any number of bills to amend the Municipal and Assessment Acts, which are referred to in another place—A bill to quiet the titles of persons holding lands formerly sold for taxes; about as objectionable a measure, at least so far as one could judge from the copies distributed, as could well

be imagined, but which would not have been allowed to pass in its present shape, we venture to say, even if there had been time for the purpose, and irrespective of the question, whether it is desirable or not to preserve tax titles from destruction, owing to defects and irregularities in the sale or otherwise.

The legislation of this the first Parliament of Ontario will be regarded with much interest; and upon the whole, we think there is no just ground for complaint that the new Legislative Assembly, principally composed, as it is, of beginners in the science of law-making, has in the matters here alluded to fallen far short of the wisdom of its more experienced predecessors.

THE MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT ACT.

The most important measure of last session, so far as concerns the readers of this journal, was the Act to amend the Municipal Institutions Act of 1866.

As most of our readers are no doubt aware, a committee of the House was appointed to prepare and report upon amendments to the Municipal Act, and to this committee were referred the host of bills which were brought in by private members to remedy defects which had occurred to them, or been brought to their notice. It was in fact necessary that one set of men should agree upon some measure which might as far as possible remedy all obvious defects without that clashing of clauses, which would inevitably result from a number of disjointed provisions.

Although this was thought to be the best thing to do under the circumstances it was not contemplated that the bill that was brought in the committee should be the final result of their labours, but it is intended that mature reflection shall be bestowed and as much light as possible thrown upon the subject, so as hereafter to prepare a more complete measure. When or how this will be done remains to be seen.

We had intended giving a sketch of the alterations and additions introduced by this Act, but find, after commencing it, that it would take more of our space than we can give to it. The Act will, we believe, shortly be in the hands of all those who are interested.

The sections, that of the Acts of 1866, have been repealed, amended, and added to, are the following:—