

*DOMINION LEGISLATION, 1896.*

The sixth session of the seventh Parliament has produced but little legislation of either general or special interest, if we exclude some twenty-six Acts concerning various railways, and half as many more relating to private companies and associations. These statutes are not yet but shortly will be in the hands of the printer.

The public Acts might easily be compressed into thirty pages. For this dearth of a great deal of necessary legislation and freedom from a considerable amount of necessary statute law, we can thank our friend the Remedial Bill.

An Act respecting the Behring Sea Claims Convention, gives to the Commissioners who may be appointed to investigate the claims which will become due under the Paris award, the same powers as a Judge in Court in regard to the subpœnaing and examination of witnesses, and any of the parties interested may be represented by counsel or solicitor.

The next Act provides separate subsidies for steamship services between Canada and the United Kingdom, and between Canada and France and Belgium. Formerly there was but one subsidy and one service, the arrangement being that the contracting line should call at a French port on its way to the English terminus.

A somewhat loosely drawn Act relates to the liability of the Crown and public companies in regard to labor used in the construction of public works. Money paid in by a contractor as security may be used to pay workmen to whom the contractor makes default. The Act also specifies the manner in which the workman may enforce his lien.

Chapter 6 dispenses with the revision of the voters lists this year, and chapter 7 is the usual bonus of 12 days pay to Senators and members who have been absent for that number of days during the session just concluded. Another chapter makes an alteration of the customs' tariff in regard to the date of importation of mining and smelting machinery.

A few amendments are made to the Railway Act in regard to by-laws by the directors, and the expropriation of lands. Other chapters deal with the Montreal Harbour Commissioners and the Turnpike Trust, the debentures of loan companies, the adulteration of honey by feeding sugar, etc., to bees, and the Animal Contagious Diseases Act.

The last of the public Acts gives the title of Chief Justice of Canada to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The want of a quorum in this Court, which has been of frequent occurrence of late, by reason of the illness of judges, is now partly obviated by constituting any four judges a quorum where the parties consent.