

Two Acts have been passed which may or may not be important, according to the use that may be made of them. One is the creation of a Chamber of Arbitration by the Toronto Board of Trade for the settlement of disputes generally, without confining it to Board of Trade matters; and the other, the Council of Conciliation, intended as a remedy for the amicable adjustment of difficulties between labour and capital. It is to be regretted that the machinery provided is not more simple. This journal has, on more than one occasion in the past, advocated a scheme of this nature; but it may be expected that, as between the two remedies now before litigants, the one provided through the ordinary channel of the courts is preferable, and will continue to be utilized.

The law of newspaper libel is dealt with at some length, and to this we may refer more particularly on some future occasion.

For the session immediately preceding a general election, or what is known as the "penitential session," there is good reason for congratulating the Legislature on the amount of remedial legislation which will be found in the statutes of 1894.

Acts which in their nature are matters of policy, such as the Separate School Ballot Act, are not included in this review of sessional work.

THE DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES ACT.

[COMMUNICATED.]

The session of the Ontario Legislature for this year has been more than usually fruitful in strictly legal enactments, and changes have been made in some branches of the law which will prove of a somewhat comprehensive character. The old and well-beaten highway of municipal law was almost deserted by the country's representatives, but as a sort of equitable compensation, and a parting shot at the legislative term which closed on the 5th of May, the wisdom of the Assembly concentrated itself on the ever fresh and interesting subject of Ditches and Watercourses. No less than eighteen pages of the *Ontario Gazette* "special" are taken up with a consolidation, amendment, substitution, and repeal of prior laws on the matter, except those relating to municipal or government drainage work, and the Act passed in the 53rd year of Her Majesty, and the amendment thereto.