

The Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XXIV.

APRIL 16, 1888.

No. 7.

THE Consolidated Rules will not come into effect until the 1st of September next. This will give the profession ample time to become familiar with the changes which they make. The Rules have been published, and are now in the hands of the booksellers.

A MEASURE has been introduced into the House of Commons, which, if it becomes law, and is properly enforced, must have a most salutary effect on the public morals. We mean the bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Abbott, intituled "An Act respecting Gaming in Stocks and Merchandise." The preamble recites the immoral tendencies of gaming and wagering on the rise and fall in the value of stocks, etc., the increase of bucket shops, and the expediency of prohibiting these evils. The first section of the bill forbids contracts for the purchase or sale of stocks, goods, merchandise, etc., where there is no *bona fide* intention of acquiring the stock, goods, etc., or selling them as the case may be, and also declares the making of any such contract, in respect of which there is no actual delivery of the thing sold or purchased, to be a misdemeanour punishable by fine and imprisonment. The habitual frequenters of bucket shops are also to be held guilty of a misdemeanour. The burden of proof as to his intention to actually acquire or sell the shares, goods, etc., is thrown on the maker of the contract, as soon as its existence is established. All connected in any way with bucket shops are to be made liable to all the penalties of the Act respecting Gaming Houses. We can see no objection to gambling at poker or dice which does not apply with equal force to the "speculations" at which this Bill is aimed. We hope to see it enacted in its entirety, and enforced with vigour and diligence.

THE Supreme Court of the United States has suffered a heavy, almost an irreparable, loss in the sudden death of Chief Justice Waite. That court occupies an anomalous position amongst national tribunals, since its duty is not merely to decide the questions involved in private litigation, but also to maintain the proper balance between the State and Federal Governments, and between the legislative and executive departments of the latter. It is the supreme arbiter, controlling and regulating all other authorities within the limits of the law and the Constitution; hence, the great importance of having for its judges men distinguished for talent, learning, moderation and conscientiousness. On them may depend the stability and permanence of the nation itself. The judges who have occupied a place in this court, have been men worthy of the