

RECENT LEGISLATION.

WHEN the present Attorney-General assumed office we had hopes that there would be a marked improvement in legislation, so far at all events as the expression of the intention of the House was concerned. Having himself been a judge his experience should be of value in so framing the statutes that at all events patent ambiguity and uncertainty should be excluded. We have been terribly disappointed. We cannot imagine anything more unworthy of a legislative body than the statutes of last session. We give a few examples.

Chapter xv., sec. 1, is as follows:—"Any keeper of a Livery Stable or of a Boarding or Sale Stable, in this Province, may detain in his custody and possession, and before the same shall have been removed out of his custody and possession, but not afterwards, any animal, vehicle, harness, furnishings, or other gear appertaining thereto, and personal effects, of any person who is indebted to him for stabling, boarding or caring for such animal." In construing this law (for we suppose we must so style it) it would be well if some one could be found who would explain how a Livery Stable keeper (even if the stable has a big initial and the owner a small one) can detain in his custody a horse after it has been removed out of his custody. Also, let it in some way be made apparent what the "gear appertaining thereto" includes. Does the "thereto" refer to the horse or the furnishings? and if the latter what are the furnishings to which the gear appertains? Then, may *any* "personal effects" of the debtor be detained? and if so, why are the furnishings and gear specially mentioned?

By sec. 2: "Every livery stable keeper and every keeper of a boarding or sale stable, shall be obliged to keep in his possession, and shall be responsible for any animals and effects detained by him for the full period of such detention, unless they shall sooner be released," &c. This is rather hard on the livery stable keeper, and his buildings are