

mean also a commissioner appointed under this article."

2. This Act shall come into force on the day of its sanction.

CAP. 29.

An Act to amend certain articles of the Municipal Code.

[Assented to, 12th July, 1888.]

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislature of Quebec, enacts as follows:

1. The Municipal Code is amended, by adding after the first paragraph of article 35, the following clause:

"The secretary-treasurer of a municipality, so organized, shall immediately give notice of the date of such organization, by publishing it in the "Quebec Official Gazette."

2. Article 168 is amended, by replacing the words "following the year during which the valuation roll is made, in the second and third lines thereof, by the words "every year."

3. Article 168*b* is repealed and replaced by the following:

"168*b*. The Provincial Secretary is bound to make a compiled statement, by counties, of the reports made in virtue of the two preceding articles, with a summary of such reports by counties, and to submit the same to the Legislature within the first fifteen days of the next session."

4. Article 169 is amended by replacing the words "Provincial Registrar," in the seventh line thereof, by the words "Provincial Secretary."

5. Articles 177 and 180 are amended by striking out the words "in council," whenever found after the words "Lieutenant-Governor."

6. Articles 561 and 563 are amended by replacing the words "three gallons or a dozen bottles of at least three half pints each" by the words "two gallons imperial measure or one dozen bottles of not less than one pint each, imperial measure."

7. Section 27 of chapter 33 of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada is repealed, in so far as it concerns the Province of Quebec.

8. This Act shall come into force on the day of its sanction.

PUNISHMENTS ANCIENT AND MODERN.

J. M. LeMoine writes:—

The unusual punishment publicly inflicted at Montreal some time ago on one Damase Desormier, dit Cusson, has naturally enough elicited in the press and elsewhere considerable comment.

Some held it wrong in principle—obsolete—a relic of barbarism; others contended it was the most effective way to deal with hardened criminals; many alleged that the punishment was too mild, in fact, a farce, judging of the manner in which it was applied. That Desormier's crime was indeed a heinous one, all admitted.

He had been convicted of having, in June last, entered a farm-house at St. Martin dressed in clerical garb, and of having outraged a fourteen-year-old girl.

Ten lashes with the cat-nine-tails, we are told, were administered by the executioner (who received \$20 for his work) on Desormier's back bare to the waist, when the whipped man, as soon as he was untied, went to the corner of the room, picked up his scapular, and dressed himself without any assistance.

If the physical pain endured was neither great nor lasting, the stigma, 'tis hoped, at any rate, will prove so. It may not be uninteresting to enquire how punishments were apportioned to crime in Canada in the earlier times. We too have witnessed in our own days surprising transformations in our criminal code. Of the rack, the wheel, the pillory, the usefulness is gone, for ever, let us hope; the lash only remains. Succeeding ages, without a doubt, owe a debt of gratitude to several friends of humanity, pre-eminently to two distinguished men of letters—Montesquieu¹ and Beccaria.²

We can imagine the rude shock given by their writings to the sanguinary penal laws prevalent in Europe during the last century, when these fearless men, at different times and in different countries, promulgated, not without obloquy and bitter criticism, their enlightened theories, apportioning the pen-

¹ De l'Esprit des Lois—1760—Milan.

² Des Délits et des Peines—1764—Paris.