

ILLNESS OF THE CHANCELLOR—HON. S. B. NEWCOMB—ACTS OF LAST SESSION.

and Platt, 163. These are very good papers, better on the average than the third year, though of course this is only as it should have been. In this year twenty-two students went up, of whom only four were rejected.

ILLNESS OF THE CHANCELLOR.

We are glad to learn that Mr. Spragge is slowly recovering from the alarming illness which for some time cast a gloom over Osgoode Hall. At one time fears were entertained for his life, but there has been a great change for the better, and there is a good prospect of his being spared to the country for many years to come; he must, however, be very careful not to return to his duties too soon. He has never spared himself, and for this reason, if for none other, he may feel assured that a little extra caution now will be more acceptable to his brother judges, the profession, and the public, however much they may feel the loss of his services, than a hurried rest and a speedy return to work.

Our readers in the Counties of Elgin and Oxford may be glad to know that Mr. S. B. Newcomb, who studied law in the former County, and practised as a barrister at Ingersoll for some years, and who went to Austin, Texas, about twelve months ago, after having been admitted to the Bar of that State, has been recently raised to the Bench of the El Paso District. If the objectionable system of electing Judges by the direct voice of the people was in force there, this would be no compliment, but we understand the appointment is still made on the ground of merit alone. We cut the following from a paper published at Austin:

"Hon. S. B. Newcomb, of Austin, has been appointed Judge of the Twenty-fifth Judicial District. Mr. Newcomb has taken the degree of barrister-at-law in Canada, where he practised his profession for several years. He is a member of the bar of the State of Ohio, as well as of our own State. We congratulate the El Paso bar on their good fortune. The vacancy made by the sudden and cruel death of Judge Clarke, has been filled satisfactorily and ably by the appointment of a gentleman of energy, firmness and courage, of advanced political views, and a mind trained to legal pursuits by the habits of years. We understand that this appointment passed the Senate almost without opposition."

ACTS OF LAST SESSION.

The Bills that were passed during the last Session of the Ontario Legislature received the Royal assent on the 15th February last. The following are those of general interest to the professional reader with their numbers as they appear in the list published in the *Gazette*:—

8. *An Act to make valid certain Commissions for taking affidavits issued by the Court of Queen's Bench.*

This Act refers to some invalid commissions issued under an Act of Upper Canada in the second year of George IV., without the seal of the Court.

11. *An Act to alter the names of the Superior Courts in Ontario.*

This Act we publish in this number.

14. *An Act to confirm the deed for the distribution and settlement of the estate of the Honourable George Jervis Goodhue, deceased.*

We have incidentally referred to this, and to the Spragge Will Act, and to the Caverno Act, as measures of a most objectionable nature, and may refer to the subject hereafter at greater length. One result of these Acts will be seen by looking at Act No. 95 *infra*.

17. *An Act respecting Affidavits, Declarations and Affirmations, made out of the Province for use therein.*

We publish this in another page of this number.

27. *An Act to empower the trustees under the will of the late Joseph Bitterman Spragge to sell certain lands in the township of Blenheim and County of Oxford.*

We have referred to this under No. 14.

33. *An Act respecting Commissioners of Police.*

The purport of this Act appears in the preamble, which recites that by 31 Vic., cap. 73rd, the Governor-General in Council is authorized to appoint one or more fit and proper persons to be and act as a Commissioner or Commissioners of Police within one or more of the Provinces of Canada; and it is desirable and expedient the better to enable such Commissioner or Commissioners of Police so appointed to execute the Criminal Laws of the Dominion, that they should have proper criminal jurisdiction granted to them within this Province, &c.