

ACTS OF LAST SESSION.

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The following are some of the most important of the Acts which were passed last session. Our readers will be glad to see them at once.

THE LAW REFORM ACT OF 1868.

[Assented to 19th December, 1868.]

Whereas the multiplicity of Courts of inferior jurisdiction entails great and unnecessary expenses upon the country, and it is advisable to amend the laws relating thereto, and to make certain other provisions with a view to lessen such expense: Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:—

1. Sections thirteen and fifteen of chapter fifteen of the Consolidated Statutes of Upper Canada respecting County Courts, are hereby repealed from the time this Act shall take effect; but nothing herein contained shall invalidate any proceeding theretofore had or taken in any of the County Courts of this Province.

2. The several County Courts of this Province from the time this Act shall take effect, shall hold two terms in each year, to commence respectively on the first Monday in July and January in each year, and end on the Saturday of the same week; except the County Court of the County of York, which last mentioned Court shall hold three terms in each year, to commence respectively on the first Monday in the months of January and April, and the last Monday of August, in each year, and end on the Saturday of the same week.

3. The sittings of the said County Courts for the trial of issues of fact and assessment of damages, shall thenceforth be held semi-annually, to commence on the second Tuesday in the months of June and December in each year; except the County Court of the County of York, which last mentioned Court shall hold three such sittings in each year, to commence respectively on the second Tuesday in the months of March, July and December in each year.

COUNTY COURTS' EQUITY JURISDICTION—REPEAL.

4. Sections thirty-three, thirty-four, thirty-five, thirty-six, thirty-seven, thirty-eight, thirty-nine, forty, forty-one, forty-two, forty-three, forty-four, forty-five, forty-six, forty-seven, forty-eight, forty-nine, fifty, fifty-one, fifty-two, fifty-three, fifty-four, fifty-five, fifty-six, fifty-seven, fifty-eight, fifty-nine, sixty, sixty-one, sixty-two, sixty-three, sixty-four, sixty-five, sixty-six, and sixty-nine of the said Statute, chapter fifteen, respecting the equity jurisdiction of the County Courts, are hereby repealed from the time this Act shall take effect, except as to any suit or proceeding then pending; but any suit or proceeding then pending

may be prosecuted and proceeded with as if this Act had not passed.

2. In any suit or proceeding, which, before the passing of this Act, might have been brought, instituted or carried on under the equity jurisdiction of the County Courts, and which may hereafter be brought or carried on in the Court of Chancery, the stamps required, and the fees, costs and charges payable in respect thereof, shall be on a scale bearing, as far as practicable, the same proportion to the stamps, fees, costs, and charges payable in other suits or proceedings in the said Court of Chancery, as the stamps, fees, costs, and charges in actions in County Courts bear to the stamps, fees, costs and charges in actions in the Superior Courts of Common Law; and it shall be lawful for the Judges of the said Court of Chancery to prepare a table of fees, costs and charges applicable to all such proceedings.

5. In amendment of the sixty-seventh section of the said Statute, chapter fifteen, it is hereby enacted that the word "four" shall be struck out of the said section, and the word "ten" be substituted and read in lieu thereof; and in further amendment of the sixty-eighth section of the said Statute, chapter fifteen, and in amendment of the Act of the Parliament of the late Province of Canada, passed in the second session, in the twenty-seventh year of Her Majesty's reign, chapter fourteen, it is hereby enacted that the words "party wishing so to appeal," used in said section sixty-eight, shall for all purposes be taken and held to mean, as well parties on whose behalf, or for whose benefit, any suit is prosecuted or defended, and parties suing or defending in the name of others, though not named on the record as parties so named; and the words "himself and" between the words "by" and "two" shall be struck out of the said section and omitted therefrom.

GENERAL SESSIONS.

6. Section three of chapter seventeen of the Consolidated Statutes of Upper Canada, relating to Courts of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, is hereby repealed from the time this Act shall take effect.

7. The Courts heretofore known as the Courts of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace in and for the several Counties and Union of Counties in this Province, shall, after this Act takes effect, be called and known as the Courts of General Sessions of the Peace of the respective Counties, and shall thenceforth be held semi-annually, to commence on the second Tuesday in the months of June and December in each year; except in the County of York, in which County the said Courts of General Sessions of the Peace shall be held three times in the year, to commence on the second Tuesday in the months of March, July and December in each year, so that said sittings may come as nearly as may be midway between the sittings of the Courts of Oyer