

STATUTE BOOK OF ONTARIO.

DIARY FOR JUNE.

1. Mon.. Paper Day Q. B. New Trial Day C. P. Last day not trial for C. C. Recorder's Court sits.
2. Tues.. Paper Day C.P. New Trial Day Q.B.
3. Wed.. New Trial Day C. P.
4. Thurs. Re-hearing Term commences.
5. Frid.. New Trial Day Q.B.
6. Sat.. Easter Term ends.
7. SUN.. *Trinity Sunday.*
9. Tues.. Quarter Sessions and C. C. sittings in each Co.
11. Thurs. *St. Barnabas.*
14. SUN.. *1st Sunday after Trinity.*
20. Sat.. Accession of Queen Victoria, 1837.
21. SUN.. *2nd Sunday after Trinity.* Longest Day.
24. Wed.. *St. John Baptist.* Appeals from Chancery Cham.
28. SUN.. *3rd Sunday after Trinity*
29. Mon.. *St. Peter.*
30. Tues.. Half-yearly School Returns to be made.—Dep. Registrar in Chancery to make returns and pay over fees.

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JUNE, 1868.

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The Statutes of the first Session of the first Parliament of Ontario have at length been issued—we may perhaps add, distributed, though, it does not appear to be the intention of the Government to supply them to Magistrates and others in the same lavish way that the General Statutes used to be. The tenth Section of the Interpretation Act makes a general provision for the distribution of the printed Statutes, directing copies to be sent to members of the Legislative Assembly in such numbers as may be ordered by resolution of the house or by order in council, and to such of the public departments, administrative bodies and offices, throughout the Dominion, as may be specified by order in Council.

Under the provisions of this Section the Statutes have been, and are to be disposed of as follows:—

One copy is to be sent free to each member of the Senate, and of the Commons of Canada, and four copies to every member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Every official in each County in Ontario and heads of governmental departments are also to have a copy. Magistrates have to buy their copies at the reduced price of fifty cents each, but it is only duly qualified magistrates that are allowed this privilege; and to carry out this arrangement the Clerks of the Peace are to be supplied with copies for this purpose. The trade have to pay one dollar each for the statutes,

which they again retail at any advance of twenty-five cents.

We understand the actual cost of the statutes, including binding, has been very small, and that the government will not be losers even at the reduced rate at which magistrates are supplied. This being so, we would respectfully ask why lawyers should not enjoy the same privilege as magistrates. Their profits are not now-a-days so immense that they can fairly be further taxed to provide a source of revenue to the country. Nor, do we think, there should, on principle, be any unnecessary restriction upon the widest diffusion of knowledge as to laws which all are supposed to know by heart as soon as they receive the Royal assent. The profession must buy the statutes at any price, and it may be said that it is from their contents that we partly derive the knowledge which is, to use a mercantile expression, our stock in trade, but by all rules of trade the benefit and profit are at least mutual as between us and the public, and whatever we pay extra is so much indirectly and unfairly added to their profits on the "transaction." If magistrates did their duties without fee or reward, they should certainly be at no expense for the statutes (and whether or not, they should in any case be provided free of charge, we are not now enquiring), but as they do not, in what respect, so far as the government is concerned, do we, in this particular differ from them. Our remarks, we beg leave to say, are quite disinterested, as we have to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the book in question, courteously sent us by the Attorney General.

The acts which are of special interest have already been referred to by us, and many of them copied at length in a former number.

As to the general appearance of the volume now before us, notwithstanding the warning given in the 13th sec. of the act already referred to, we confess to having been rather startled at the gorgeous display of red and gold which it presents. We might be almost induced to say that the edition had been "got up regardless of expense," were it not that the proverbial economy of our present local administration precludes the possibility of such a thing. A closer examination would lead one to think that the new binding is very good in its way, the material being similar to that used in the less imposing statute books of the Dominion