

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Session opened 3rd November, 1868—Prorogued 23rd January, 1869.

SUPPLY.

Cap. 1—Is the supply bill granting \$1,607,664 for the services of 1869. \$4,000 is granted to Mrs. Isabella McKenzie. Also, \$13,264 to cover advances made by the Dominion. \$4,000 to the Toronto General Hospital. \$750 each to Victoria, Kingston and Toronto Medical Colleges. \$1,000 each to the Judges of the Superior Courts.

DEMISE OF THE CROWN.

Cap. 2—Continues the legislature on the demise of the Crown.

PRIVILEGES, &c., OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Cap. 3—Confers similar privileges and immunities on the House of Assembly as members of the House of Commons have, and respecting printing Parliamentary documents, as by Dominion Act 31 V., c. 23.—(See *Year Book*, 1869.)

INDEPENDENCE OF LEGISLATURE.

Cap. 4—Contains similar provisions to the Quebec Act, 32 V., c. 3, except that Quebec excludes officers of the army, and Ontario admits them. Quebec admits Senators and Privy Councillors, and Postmasters with less than \$100 per an., Ontario excluding them. Ontario excepts staff officers of Militia till next general election; and Quebec, Legislative Councillors already appointed to offices of emolument generally, and members of Assembly so appointed, till next general election. Ontario excludes from the Executive Council any one sitting in the House of Commons after next general election in the Province. The fine for illegal sitting and voting is \$2,000 per day.

ADMINISTERING OATHS TO WITNESSES.

Cap. 5—Select Committees of the House may administer oaths to witnesses before them.

LAW REFORM—1868.

Cap. 6—Ss. 13 and 14 of c. 15 C. S. U. C. are repealed. The county courts will each hold 2 terms per an., commencing on the first Monday in January and July, and ending on the ensuing Saturday, except in York, where 3 terms will be held on the first Mondays of January, April and August. The sittings for trial of issues of fact, and assessment of damages, on the 2nd Tuesday in June and December; in York, 2nd Tuesday in March, July and December. The County Courts' equity jurisdiction is abolished. Costs in the Court of Chancery to be proportionate. S. 67 of c. 15 C. S. U. C. is amended, "ten" being substituted for "four." The words "himself and" are struck out between "by" and "two" in s. 68. "Parties wishing so to appeal," in that section and 27 V., c. 14, mean any persons in whose interest a suit is prosecuted or defended, although not named in the record. S. 3 c. 17 C. S. U. C. is repealed. General Sessions of the Peace are to be held semi-annually on the second Tuesday in June and December, except in York, where three shall be held on the second Tuesday in March, July and December. Fees are not to be increased because suits begun in County Courts are tried and assessed in a Superior Court. Constables may be appointed at any General Sessions or adjourned General Sessions of the Peace. Accounts of expenditure, under c. 121 C. S. U. C., are to be presented to the Clerks of the Peace before each General Sessions or Court of Oyer and Terminer, and examined by the J. P. of the County or Union, instead of Quarter Sessions. Those delivered on or before the first day of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, &c., are audited by a board of 7 J. P., of whom the Chairman of the Sessions is one, in the week next succeeding the sitting of such court. Returns of convictions, &c., by J. P. are to be made in March, June, September and December, to the Clerks of the Peace. Recorders' Courts, and commissions to Recorders to hold Division Courts, are abolished, and the cities are united to the counties in which they are, for judicial purposes. The Police Magistrates of cities are *ex officio* J. P. for the counties as well, and no J. P. can act within the cities, except in General Sessions, unless he is ill or absent, or request them in writing. Investigations, under s. 380 of the Municipal Act, 29 and 30 V., are to be held by the county judge. Ratepayers, and members and employees of a corporation are good witnesses in cases where it is a party, but, except in the case of county corporations, they may be challenged as jurors. Indictments, &c., pending in Recorders' Courts are transferred to General Sessions. County Judges take the place of the Recorder in Police Boards, and all other business of the Recorders is transferred to them. Issues of fact, and assessments of damages, in Superior Court cases of debt, covenant or contract, the amount being liquidated or ascertained by defendant's signature, may be tried in the county courts if the plaintiff desire, unless a Judge of such Superior Court otherwise order, and county court cases may be, in like manner, tried at sittings of Assize and Nisi Prius in the county, notice in either case being given. The costs in all such cases are those of the court in which the action is brought. All such issues of fact or assessments are to be tried by a Judge alone, unless a jury is demanded by either party with his last pleading. The finding of the Judge upon the facts, &c., has the same effect as a verdict of a jury. Notice of a jury may be waived at the trial, and it may then be had before the Judge alone. The Judge may order any case to go before a jury. Ss. 10 and 132 to 137 inclusive of c. 31 C. S. U. C. are repealed. S. 51, as amended by 29 V., c. 54, s. 50, is amended, inserting the words "and the junior Judge of the county court, and the Mayor of any city situate in such county" after the words "Deputy Sheriff of the county."

DOWER.

Cap. 7—Repeals c. 28 C. S. U. C. and c. 40 of 24 V. Dower is not recoverable out of any lot of land wholly in a state of nature when aliened. In estimating damages for detention of