

PARLIAMENT OF CANADA.

(Opened 4th February, and Prorogued 8th April, 1875.)

THE STATUTES AND INTERPRETATION.

Chap. 1—Provides for the publication of the public general Acts in a separate volume from the local and private Acts. "Superior Courts" in 31 V., c. 1 shall mean the Queen's Bench in Manitoba, the Supreme Court in British Columbia, and Supreme Court of Judicature in P. E. Island, also the Court of Error and Appeal in Ontario in addition to Courts already included. Amending Acts are only to apply to the same Provinces as those amended, unless otherwise stated therein.

CONTINUING ACT.

Chap. 2—Continues Inso'vent Act and amendments till 1st January, 1876, (but see *Chap. 16*) also 35 V., c. 41, ss. 2 and 3, for admission of P. E. Island to 1st January, 1876, and end of next Session.

SUPPLIES.

Chap. 3—Grants \$1,779,787 for services of 1874-75, and \$27,117,107 for those 1875-76. The G. in C. is authorized to raise loans for \$2,433,833 for the Intercolonial Railway, \$1,460,000 for opening communication with and settlement, &c. of the North-West, \$1,500,000 for improvement of the St. Lawrence, \$1,200,000 for the improvement of Quebec Harbour, \$20,926,866 for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and \$12,436,683 for general purposes in lieu of debentures redeemed, under the Act of 1872, respecting the Public Debt—the other authorities thereof being cancelled.

PUBLIC DEBT.

Chap. 4—Amends 35 V., c. 6, and authorizes the issue and sale of 10 million 4 p. c. stock under the same provisions as the 5 p. c.

DOMINION NOTES.

Chap. 5—The R. G. must hold gold for all notes above \$12,000,000 issued, and 50 p. c. of gold for all above \$9,000,000 up to \$12,000,000.

DEPARTMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE.

Chap. 6—Authorizes the Deputy Registrar General to sign and certify the registration of all documents requiring it, and copies of the same or of any record.

POSTAL SERVICE.

Chap. 7—Makes new provision for the postal service. Old regulations, &c., are continued till new are made. The Revenue Management Acts are made applicable to the postal revenue and officers. The organization of the Department and powers of P. M. G. are similar to those in former Acts. (See *Year Book for 1868*, p. 59.)

Among the changes are provisions for issuing and use of stamps for registration fee and post cards, and stamped post bands or wrappers for newspapers, and

other mailable matter, and the appointment of assistant inspectors. Inspectors or assistants need not report monthly, but must inspect and report on offices, &c., from time to time as necessary. They are to inquire in to cases of suspected misconduct or mismanagement, whether a complaint has been made or no, as well as into mis-errand or loss of letters or other mail matter. Remuneration for extra work is to be subject to the Civil Service Act. The prepayment of letter postage is made in all cases compulsory by stamps. Unpaid letters will not be forwarded, but those insufficiently paid with at least one full rate will be sent chargeable with double the amount which is lacking to the full postage. Drop letters pay 1 cent, per half oz. The postage on Canadian newspapers and periodicals sent from the publication office to subscribers or news agents, and put up in parcels according to regulations of the P. M. G., is 1 ct. per lb. or fraction. Single copies weighing less than an ounce may be sent for a half cent prepaid by stamp. On such publications otherwise sent, or on other mailable matter, including lithographs and documents wholly or partly printed or written, such as deeds, insurance policies, militia and school returns, &c., the rate is 1 ct. for each 4 oz. or fraction. In cases of the purchase of stamps, cards, or bands, or payment of postage on letters from abroad on which prepayment is not compulsory, neither the P. M. or letter-carrier can be called on to give change, but the exact amount must be tendered. Free delivery to cities or towns to be made subject to regulations of the P. M. G. Books may be sent from the Parliamentary Library to members of the two Houses, and returned by them, free of postage, as well as public documents, &c. Members of the several Provincial legislatures may send public documents printed by those bodies free, and petitions and addresses to those bodies may go free. Postage is to be charged on letters returned through the Dead Letter Office. The provision for opening letters suspected to contain contraband matter is extended to parcels of other mailable matter. The obligation of ferrymen to transport mails is extended to N. S. and N. B., heretofore exempt. The carriage of U. S. mails through Canada need not be at the expense of that country. The provision requiring accounts under oath of the revenue derived from boxes, &c., in cities, towns, &c., is abolished. Also the provision for advertising undelivered letters in newspapers. Tenders for contracts are to be advertised for in such papers as the P. M. G. directs, and by posting in the principal offices on the line. A statement of tenders made need not be submitted to Parliament; nor need the annual report contain a statement of contracts entered into, with time of arrival and departure, mode of transportation, &c., nor a statement of extra allowances to contractors, or curtailment of expenses, or of fines imposed on contractors, or of the new offices, money order offices, and routes