

PARLIAMENT OF CANADA.

(Opened 7th February and Prorogued 10th May, 1878.)

MARITIME COURT, ONTARIO.

Chap. 1.—Powers are given to enforce decrees and orders of this court as an order or decree of chancery is enforced, and the necessary writs may issue from the Maritime Court for the purpose, the marshal and deputy having like powers with the sheriffs.

POST OFFICE ACT.

Chap. 2.—Gives postmasters power to mark letters suspected to concern lotteries, gift concerts, or fraudulent schemes, &c., with a warning to that effect. U. S. mails carried over any portion of Canada under an agreement between the two Governments are to be considered H. M. mails.

RAILWAY ACTS, P. E. ISLAND.

Chap. 3.—The Railway Act 1868 and amending Acts (34 V., c. 43, 36 V., cc. 30 and 31, 38 V., c. 24, 39 V., cc. 15 and 32, and 40 V., c. 45,) are extended to P. E. Island: the Judges of the Supreme and County Courts are to act under it; and payments for compensation for land, &c., to be made into the Supreme Court.

SUPPLIES.

Chap. 4.—Is the Supply Bill, granting \$2,721,404 33 for the services of the fiscal year of 1877-78, and \$19,458,856 95 for those of 1878-79. Power is retained to borrow \$2,433,333.33 for the Intercolonial Railway, \$1,460,000 for the North-West Territories, \$1,500,000 for improvement of the St. Lawrence, \$1,200,000 for Quebec Harbour, \$7,300,000 for Pacific Railway and Canals, and \$7,911,224.67 for general purposes.

INDEPENDENCE OF PARLIAMENT.

Chap. 5.—Repeals the previous Acts on this subject, and enacts that no person holding any Dominion office of emolument, nor any Sheriff, Registrar of Deeds, Clerk of the Peace or County Crown Attorney appointed by a Provincial Government may be elected or sit in the House of Commons, members of the Privy Council holding cabinet office being excepted, if elected while holding such offices. Resigning one cabinet office while a member and within a month accepting another does not vacate such person's seat, unless the administration as a whole have resigned. Any person holding a contract with the Government, either directly or through another person, trustee or other, or as partner of another, is ineligible, and vacates his seat, if a member, by so contracting. A member also vacates his seat if he "knowingly sells any goods, wares or merchandise to or performs any service for the Government of Canada for which any public money of Canada is paid or to be paid, whether the sale be single or continuous or the agreement express or implied. A disqualified mem-

ber who sits and votes forfeits \$200 per day, recoverable by any person who will sue for it. These enactments apply to transactions while Parliament is not sitting as well as when it is. A shareholder in an incorporated Co. is not disqualified unless it contracts for public works including the Pacific Railway. All contracts and commissions entered into or granted by the Government are to contain a clause that no M. P. is to receive any share in or advantage from it. If the holder of the contract or commission allow an M. P. such share or advantage, he forfeits \$200 to any one who will sue for it. From these penalties &c., are exempted persons on whom the completion of a contract devolves by descent or limitation, or by marriage, or as devisee, legatee, executor or administrator, for 12 months after it so devolves upon him; those who contract to loan money to the Government or purchase Government securities after public competition, and militia officers called out for duty and only receiving regular pay and allowances. Similar prohibitions respecting contracts are applied to Senators, saving those who were interested in contracts before the Act passed. Suits for penalties must be brought within one year. A member may resign his seat in the Commons, by giving notice thereof in his place, the House sitting, or by a written declaration under his hand and seal executed before two witnesses, delivered to the Speaker, and thereupon the Speaker issues his warrant for a new writ. Or he may resign when Parliament is not sitting, although there is no Speaker or he is himself Speaker, by addressing and causing to be delivered his notice of resignation to two M. P.'s, who may thereupon issue the necessary warrant for a new writ. But no M. P. can resign while his election is being contested or during the time in which it may be contested for other causes than bribery and corruption. A vacancy caused by the death of an M. P., or of his acceptance of office is to be notified to the Speaker by two M. P.'s, who issues his warrant for a new writ, or if there be no Speaker the two M. P.'s themselves issue such warrant. Provision is made for the issue of a writ between a general election and the assembly of Parliament upon the death or acceptance of office of a member elect, but the new election will be void, if on a trial of the previous election another candidate than the one returned be declared entitled to the seat.

HOUSE OF COMMONS ELECTIONS.

Chap. 6.—Amends the Election Law. The use of an envelope for ballots is done away with. A counterfoil is provided. On the ballot paper the names, &c., of the candidates as described in the nomination papers alphabetically arranged, are printed at the left hand. The names are divided by lines, and the mark of the voter made in the division in which the name of a candidate is thus placed, renders his