

Book Reviews.

The Law of Fire Insurance in Canada, with a complete analysis of the jurisprudence and of the statute law of the Dominion.

By EDWARD ROBERT CAMERON, K.C., Registrar of the Supreme Court of Canada. Montreal: Wilson & Lafleur, law publishers, 17 and 19 St. James St. 1909.

Insurance men and those of the profession interested in insurance law owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Cameron for a work which offers valuable, practical assistance to those who may be called upon to consider the rights of parties in connection with this subject.

In a very interesting preface the special difficulties confronting the practitioner are set forth. The statute law differs widely in the various provinces and the decision of one Province cited in another necessitates a careful consideration and comparison of the language used by the legislature in the two provinces. Little assistance moreover can owing to various circumstances be obtained either from English or American cases. The author has therefore attempted only to expound the law of fire insurance as determined by the decision of the Canadian courts, citing English and American cases where they illustrate such decisions. No table of contents is given. This is inconvenient, but can be remedied in a subsequent edition.

Chapter I. is introductory and sets forth the jurisdiction of the Federal Court, the other chapters deal with the following subjects:—The contract, insurable interest, the insured, waiver and estoppel, agency, warranties and conditions, statutory conditions, mutual insurance, Quebec Insurance Act.

Even a hasty review of the incongruities and anomalies which are pointed out emphasize, as the learned author says, the desirability of having some uniform legislative enactment which shall control the relationship between the insurer and the insured, and almost warrants his contention that the law on this subject should be codified in the same as that applicable to bills of exchange and promissory notes.

The time limit on Actions, being a treatise on the Statute of Limitations. By JOHN M. LIGHTWOOD, M.A., Barrister-at-law. London: Butterworth & Co., 11 and 12 Bell Yard, Temple Bar, law publishers. 1909.

This is one of the books of the day, gathering together in convenient form scattered material as to limitation of actions. We regret that that part applicable to the doctrine of laches is disappointingly brief.