

proper. This Act is intended as an enabling one to trustees; but being also retroactive, we may expect to hear of it again.

The Act respecting Assignments and Preferences next undergoes some amendments, the Legislature (to use the words of Mr. Justice Osler in *Gibbons v. McDonald*, 18 A.R. 159, "having failed to express themselves intelligibly" on this subject) have finally, after numerous amendments, given up section 2 in disgust and substituted therefor a new section. The manifest intention of this section is to get over the recent decision in the Supreme Court in *Molsons Bank v. Halter*, 18 S.C.R. 88, where it was held that the word "preference" means a voluntary preference, that is to say, a spontaneous act of the debtor, and that a mere demand is sufficient pressure by a creditor to take away from a conveyance, transfer, or mortgage, the character of an unjust preference.

It will be noticed that the words "or which have such effect," which were introduced into the repealed section with the evident intention of abolishing the doctrine of pressure in all cases, have been omitted from subsection 1 of the section substituted for the repealed section, which deals with transfers made with intent to defraud, hinder, delay, or prejudice creditors, so that it will still be necessary to prove in such cases the intent in the minds both of the transferor and the transferee.

Subsections (a) and (b) of section 1, which deals with "effect," apply only to cases of unjust preferences, and enact that the intent shall be presumed if the "transaction has the effect of giving a preference," provided an action is brought within sixty days or the debtor assigns within that time, "whether the same be made voluntarily or under pressure." So that the doctrine as to pressure as revived by *Molsons Bank v. Halter* has not been interfered with unless an action to impeach the transaction is brought within sixty days or the debtor assigns within that time.

It is doubtful whether this last attempt of the Legislature will prove more effective than their previous efforts to place the indolent creditor on the same footing as his more energetic brother; and we cannot help feeling that it would be well if the Legislature would take advantage of the act enabling the Court to entertain an action for the declaration of the validity of any statute, to ascertain the exact extent of their power to legislate on this much-debated and most important subject.

Among the original acts passed we find The Woodman's Lien for Wages Act, which facilitates the filing and enforcement of liens by workmen for labor done on logs in the districts of Algoma, Thunder Bay, and Rainy River.

By c. 23, the Society of Friends, or Quakers, are enabled to solemnize marriages according to their own rites, and all marriages thus solemnized previous to this act are declared to be and have been valid. In the Salvation Army, male commissioners and staff officers duly appointed by the society, are authorized to perform the ceremony.

Important amendments, interesting principally to medical practitioners, are made to The Ontario Medical Act.