

born at the dates supposed, and on which important rights depend ; persons may have been aliens who were supposed to be British subjects, or may have been British subjects who were supposed to be aliens ; and persons may have been absent from the country when the Statutes of Limitations were supposed to have commenced running against them, or may have been in the Province before the Statutes were supposed to have begun their operation in barring their rights.

There are even some causes of difficulty, delay and expense in the case of Canadian Titles, which do not exist to the same extent in England.

Thus we have not hitherto had any complete system for the registration of births, deaths and marriages, and the want of any has created much inconvenience.

Again, our population is less stationary than that of Great Britain, or of the old countries of Europe. A much smaller proportion of our people, than is the case in an old country, remain permanently in one place ; and a much larger proportion, after being concerned in the ownership of land, or being witnesses to transactions affecting the ownership, leave the part of the country where they were known at the time, and perhaps leave the country altogether. Native Canadians, or those who have lived for a time here, are to be found in British Columbia, Australia, New Zealand, and probably every State of the American Republic. The difficulty from this cause alone of tracing witnesses or former owners, and of ascertaining and proving the death of heirs and devisees, is sometimes found to be very serious.

Then again, Canadian Titles have, in many instances, to be traced through persons residing in Great Britain ; through Deeds and Wills executed there ; and through heirs who were born there, and who married and died there.

So from time to time it happens that births, deaths and