

THE LAND TITLES ACT—RECENT ENGLISH DECISIONS.

by any certificate granted under the Act. an indemnity fund is to be established, This fund is to be created by the exaction of 25c. for every \$100 of the value of property registered under the Act. This fee is only payable on the first certificate of title issued under the Act, and, out of the fund so created, persons who suffer loss by operation of the Act are to be indemnified. The practice under the Act is very largely governed by the Rules appended, which are susceptible of alteration and modification as experience may suggest.

It remains to be considered what course the profession ought to adopt in reference to this Act. In England, as we have seen, the *vis inertiae* of the profession has virtually killed the statute. Things are on a somewhat different footing in Ontario. The profession here responds much more readily than in England to the requirements of business and public convenience. Besides this, conveyancing is, to a large extent, in the hands of unlicensed practitioners, and as soon as the merits of the new system are generally understood by the public (if it has that superiority over the present system in the saving of time and money which is claimed for it), these merits will compel its adoption; and, if the profession were to create difficulties in the way of its success, we fear a remedy might be found by creating a class of land brokers who would speedily monopolize the whole business under the Act. The successful operation of the Act, however, is not by any means dependent on the legal profession; it will largely depend on the liberality of view possessed by the officer appointed to administer it. If he should require every title to be absolutely perfect before it can be registered, the Act cannot be a success. What is wanted to make it work smoothly is a careful discrimination between objections which are really serious and those which are only in effect technical, such as

no prudent man would hesitate to run the risk of. The latter class of objections ought not to be strictly insisted on. It requires undoubtedly a man of considerable experience and breadth of view to make a just discrimination of this sort; we believe, however, it will be found that the first Master of Titles will be equal to the occasion.

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The *Law Reports* for July comprise 15 Q. B. D. pp. 1-196; 10 P. D. pp. 113-130; 29 Chy. D. pp. 253-265.

Very few of the cases in the Queen's Bench and Probate Divisions require any notice here.

HIGHWAY—INJURY TO GAS PIPES CAUSED BY USE OF STEAM ROLLER.

The first case is *The Gas Light and Coke Co. v. St. Mary Abbott's*, 15 Q. B. D. 1, a decision of the Court of Appeal affirming a judgment of Field, J. The action was brought to restrain the defendants, a municipal corporation, from using a steam roller in repairing the public highway, on the ground that the plaintiffs' gas pipes were injured thereby. The Court held the plaintiffs entitled to the injunction.

STOPPAGE IN TRANSITU—END OF TRANSIT—GOODS BOUGHT BY AGENT FOR FOREIGN PRINCIPAL.

Ex parte Miles, 15 Q. B. D. 39, is a decision of the Court of Appeal overruling the decision of the registrar in bankruptcy. The case involves an important question of mercantile law. Certain manufacturers sold goods to a commission agent who had been instructed to purchase them by a foreign principal; the goods were to be forwarded to Southampton to be shipped pursuant to the agent's orders, and they were to be paid for by six months' bills to be drawn by the vendors on the agent, and accepted by him. The goods were forwarded to Southampton to the shipping agents named by the commission agent,