
*STATUTE REVISION—CONSOLIDATION AND
GROUPING OF SUBJECTS.*

In the revision of the Ontario Statutes which is now being made, it is to be hoped that the propriety of consolidating statutes or parts of statutes dealing with the same subject-matter will not be lost sight of.

The limitation of time for bringing actions is one of those subjects respecting which this consolidation seems especially to be needed. At the present time there are no less than four separate general Statutes of Limitations, besides several other special enactments scattered through the statutes relating to the same subject, as applied to certain specific cases. This is a very inconvenient arrangement, and it would be infinitely preferable that there should be one Statute of Limitations, which should cover all possible cases.

The inconvenience of the present arrangement may be illustrated by the fact that if you want to find the time for bringing actions for slander, assault, battery, imprisonment, or for trespass to goods, or lands, debt, rent, detinue replevin, etc., you must go to the 3rd volume, c. 324. If you want to find the period of limitation for actions for rent upon an indenture of demise, or upon bonds, specialties, mortgages, recognizances, awards, or for escape, or for money levied on execution, or penalties to the Crown, you must consult R.S.O. c. 72; and as to other penalties, 4 Edw. VII. c. 10. Then, as to the effect of acknowledgments and payments in case of money demands you must go to c. 146; and if you want to find out the limitation for bringing actions concerning land you must go to R.S.O. c. 133. Besides these, there are the Municipal Act, and other Acts, which create special periods of limitation. In a scientific arrangement of the statutes it seems reasonable to say that the whole subject of the limitation of actions should be treated of in one enactment, which should be so framed as to cover all cases. We notice that in England those who are responsible are being urged to do there what we are now urging here.