

ACTS OF LAST SESSION.

dry enactments as to the construction and effect of deeds and other instruments, of which one of the most noticeable is contained in sec. 54 which provides that a receipt for consideration, money or securities in the body of a deed shall be a sufficient discharge for the same without any further receipt for the same being endorsed on the deed; sec. 65 provides for the enlargement of the residue of long terms into fee simples; lastly, sec. 70 contains a most important provision that an order of the Court under any statutory or other jurisdiction shall not, as against a purchaser, be invalidated on the ground of want of jurisdiction, or of want of any concurrence, consent, notice, or service, whether the purchaser has notice of any such want or not. This goes far beyond the terms of Imp. 19-20 Vict., c. 120, sec. 28, (in force in this Province by virtue of R. S. O. c. 40, sec. 85), and as the *Law Journal* (Eng.) observes, one result will probably be that even a recent sale from the Court will generally be made a root of title on a resale out of Court.

Of the remaining Acts in this volume of the Imperial Statutes we need say but little. Chap. 49 comprises the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, but it not until chap. 60 is reached that we find any statute of general interest from the point of view of law reform. Chap. 60 is an Act to Amend the Law of Newspaper Libel, and to provide for the registration of newspaper proprietors. Of this we need merely mention sec. 2, as the rest of the provisions of the Act relate to matters of procedure, and of registration of the proprietors. Sec. 2 provides that "Any report published in any newspaper of the proceedings of a public meeting shall be privileged, if such meeting was lawfully convened for a lawful purpose and open to the public, and if such report was fair and accurate, and published without malice, and if the publication of the matter complained of was for the public benefit: provided always, that the protection intended to be afforded by this section

shall not be available as a defence in any proceeding, if the plaintiff or prosecutor can show that the defendant has refused to insert in the newspaper in which the report containing the matter complained of appeared, a reasonable letter or statement of explanation or contradiction by or on behalf of such plaintiff or prosecutor."

We can now pass on to chap. 68, which is an Act to Amend the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, and is to be called—"The Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1881." Sec. 2 is of historical interest in that it provides that the present *and every future Master of the Rolls* shall cease to be a Judge of H. M.'s High Court of Justice, but shall continue by virtue of his office to be a Judge of H. M.'s Court of Appeal. The sections 3-8 inclusive merely relate to the organization of the Courts. Secs. 9-10 concern appeals under the Imp. Divorce Act, 20-21 Vict., c. 85. Sec. 11 amends sec. 4 of the Supreme Court of J. Act, 1875, by enacting that a judge who was not present and acting as a member of a divisional court of the High Court of Justice, at the time when any decision which may be appealed from was made, or at the argument of the case decided, shall not, for the purposes of that section, be deemed to be, or to have been, a member of such divisional court. (cf. Ont. J. A. sec. 4 taken in connection with R. S. O. c. 38, sec. 13). Sec. 12 provides that in cases of urgency one judge may officiate for another. The remainder of the Act concerns merely matters of administration and organization, and need not be further noticed here.

The next Act, chap. 69, applies to all parts of the empire, and is an Act to amend the law with respect to fugitive offenders. Sec. 2 provides that where a person accused of having committed an offence (to which this part of this Act applies) in one part of H. M.'s dominions has left that part, such person, if found in another part of H. M.'s dominions, shall be liable to be apprehended and re-