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DECISIONS IN COMMERCIAL LAW.

BOND V. TORONTO RAILWAY COMPANY .-The Court of Appeal decides that having car buffers of different heights, so that in coupling the buffers over lap and afford no protection to the person effecting the coupling, is a "defect in the arrangement of the plant" within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

BARNS V. DOMINION GRANGE MUTUAL FIRE Insurance Association.—Upon application for insurance for four years and the giving of his note for the premium, the applicant received an interim receipt containing the conditions, among others, that the insurance was subject to the approval of the directors, who should have power to cancel the contract within fifty days by letter, and that unless the receipt was followed by a policy within the fifty days the contract of insurance should wholly cease and determine. No notice of cancellation was given and no policy was issued. Held by the Court of Appeal that there was a contract of insurance, and that the provision for determination by the effluxion of time was a variation from the statutory conditions, which was not binding, not being printed in the required mode.

ARTHUR V. GRAND TRUNK RY. Co.-Court of Appeal holds that if water precipitated from the clouds, in the form of rain or snow, forms for itself a visible course or channel, and is of sufficient volume to be serviceable to the persons through or along whose lands it flows, it is a watercourse and for its diversion an action will lie. Where such a watercourse has been diverted by a railway company in constructing their line, without filing maps or giving notice, the landowner injuriously affected has a right of action, and is not limited to an arbitration. For such diversion the landowner, in the absence of an undertaking by the company to restore the watercourse to its original condition, is entitled to have damages assessed as for a permanent injury.

LAND SECURITY Co. v. WILSON.—An agreement for sale and purchase of several lots entered into between the plaintiffs and the defendant described the lots by their plan number, and, after providing for payment of the purchase money, part in cash and part at times fixed therein, with a right of payment, contained the words: "Company will discharge any of the said lots on payment of the proportion of the purchase price applicable on each." The defendant sold and assigned his interest in the agreement to a third person, who made sales of lots and parts of lots, conveyances being made to the purchasers by the plaintiffs, who also

gave time to the third person for payment interest. Held, by Court of Appeal, that though the plaintiffs had no right to convey parts of lots, the defendant, even if merely a surety, was not wholly released by their doing this, and giving time for payment of interest, but that he . was released as to interest in arrear when time was given, and was entitled to credit for the full proportion of purchase money of these lots of which parts had been conveyed.

Wood v. Reesor.—The Court of Appeal decides that a creditor cannot take the benefit of the consideration for a transfer of goods and at the same time attack the transfer as fraudulent, and an assignee for the benefit of the creditors has no higher right in this respect. Where therefore a creditor suing in the name of the assignee obtained judgment for the payment to him, as part of debtor's estate, of promissory notes given to the latter for, as was alleged, part of the purchase money of his stock in trade, it was held that it was then too late for the creditor to attack the sale as fraudulent.

PREFERENTIAL ASSIGNMENTS.

Reference was made last week, in another column, to the measure regarding assignments and preferences just adopted by the New Brunswick Legislature. Our correspondent sends us some further particulars. This measure, he says, will do something to prevent the dishonest assignments we have been used to, and will help to secure, if it does not entirely secure, to creditors equitable treatment in the distribution of estates. This new law can render void any judgment given to defraud his creditors by any insolvent person, knowing his condition. Preferences to any creditor, transfers of goods, likewise gifts and conveyances, are voidable. Provision is made for the debtor to assign to the sheriff of his county, who is compelled to give special security. Immediately upon the assignment all the estate of the insolvent passes into the hands of the assignee for distribution. The effect of the assignment is that the sheriff is in a position to proceed against any fraudulent transfers or preferences. The rights of all wage-earners are protected by the law. Provision is made for meetings of the creditors, and these may at any time appoint an assignee other than the sheriff. Any proceedings authorized by the creditors at their meetings can be taken by the assignee only on the authority of a judge. In its provisions to secure the full benefit of all estates to the creditors, the measure compels the refunding of all moneys realized by the person to whom gifts or transfers have been made, if they have been disposed of. Assignments take precedence of executions.

