

whom Hindoos and Mahomedans form the bulk, are extremely fond of litigation, and the legal barometer rises as the weather gets warm. Every native considers it the correct thing to have a law suit in full swing. In fact some think it unconstitutional that the luxury of litigation should be curtailed, as is intentionally done by the Specific Relief Act, which prevents a person suing in respect of any subject he has contracted to refer to arbitration. Fortunately, however, this is a plea which may be effectually waived, as was (unintentionally, of course) done in a late railway case in the old country.

The statute of limitations has not as yet been touched on. Under this head it may be observed that various Acts prescribing the time within which actions can be brought, applications made, and appeals filed, are focussed by Act xv., of 1879. For the convenience of Canadian readers the Indian Limitation Act may thus be summarized :

One year is allowed for actions of tort.

Three years for actions on contracts, simple or otherwise (unregistered), including suits for rent. A customer need, therefore, only preserve receipted bills for three years, instead, as at home, for double that time.

On registered documents, as also on foreign judgments, a six years' limitation is given.

All suits for the recovery of immovable property are in time if instituted within twelve years, and to redeem a mortgage of immovable property sixty years is allowed.

It is noteworthy that the periods prescribed by this Act suffice to extinguish all remedy by suit, save (a) in cases of trust or fraud (b) where an acknowledgment has been obtained in writing recognizing the claim as of right before expiration of the prescribed period, or (c) where the defendant has been for any part of the time absent from India. Lastly, decrees of the High Court can be executed any time within twelve years—but decrees of other courts not less than three years—unless kept alive by execution or notice through the court.

Incidentally it may be remarked that hard and fast rules prevail, by which all courts in India are bound to take cognizance of limitation questions, whether raised by the defendant or not.

Appeals lie to the District Judge, and from thence to the High Courts, and in cases involving over \$1,000, across seas to Her Majesty in Council.

Nor has the economic community been forgotten, seeing that our Statute Book also includes Acts regulating Joint Stock Companies generally, and railways, factories, tramways, telegraphs, telephones, shipping and inland navigation in particular.

The United Kingdom standard yard has now become the one legal standard measure of length, in furtherance of the desire for uniformity of weights and measures.

India has in addition the benefit of a law regulating Literary and Scientific Societies, modelled on the lines of the English statute. Authors and inventors are also recognized, for we have a Copyright Act, practically extending English law into the interior. And one of the latest additions to our legal port-