

amount of the bond which the administrator and his sureties (usually two) are required to execute and file in the Court, before the Letters issue.

After the Letters have issued, the first duty of the administrator is to take into his custody the personal property, books and papers of the deceased, and ascertain fully what are the assets of the deceased in the shape of goods, moneys and securities for money on hand, and book debts. A careful appraised inventory of these should be made, the debts realized upon, and other assets converted into cash if necessary to pay debts. An inventory of the liabilities of the estate should also be made out, and, if it be suspected that other liabilities which do not appear in the books, or of which the administrator is ignorant, exist, these should be advertised for by the administrator, to protect himself. For the first duty of an administrator is to pay the debts, and he has no right to distribute any property among the next of kin until the debts are paid. If sufficient assets exist, the debts are paid in full; if not, rateably. In Ontario and some other Provinces, an administrator who advertises for debts, may distribute, after a reasonable time, having reference only to claims of which he has notice. Should other claims be sent in after his distribution, he cannot be sued for them.

The debts being paid, together with the funeral expenses and expenses of administration (which form a first charge upon the assets), the estate may then be divided among the widow and next of kin. The administrator may then pass his accounts before the Court which appointed him.

The authority of the administrator does not extend beyond the jurisdiction of the Court which appoints him. If assets exist beyond such jurisdiction, he, or some other person, may apply for administration there, in order to reach them. The chief administration should be in the jurisdiction where the deceased had his domicile at the time of his death. The other administrations are called ancillary.

In Ontario, by "The Devolution of Estates Act," R. S. O. 1897, c. 127, the following statutory provisions apply to the estates of persons dying on or after the 1st July, 1886. Upon the death of such persons, their estates in fee simple, or chattels real, notwithstanding any disposition by will, devolve upon and become vested in their legal personal representative, subject to the payment of their debts; and, so far as not disposed of by deed, will, or contract, are to be distributed as personal property, subject to the provisions of the Act. Under this statute, where a general administration is applied