

from it. By chap. 35 an amendment is made to the Chattel Mortgage Act as regards mortgages made by companies to secure payment of their bonds; and the following chapter contains further amendments to the same statute. Why these amendments could not be embodied in the same statute is a mystery.

By chap. 37 an attempt has been made to simplify the procedure to enforce mechanics' liens. So little benefit has hitherto been derived from actions of this kind, that many judges and practitioners had arrived at the conclusion that for all the good it was to litigants the Mechanics' Lien Act might as well be repealed altogether. This new Act appears to be an heroic effort to give the principal Act some vitality. The scheme of procedure laid down by the Act is, shortly, this: Instead of issuing a writ, or taking any other preliminary proceeding, the plaintiff is to begin his action by filing a statement of claim, verified by affidavit, in the office of a Master, or Official Referee. This officer is then to issue a combined certificate and appointment, in duplicate, certifying that the claim has been filed, and appointing a time to adjudicate on it. One copy of this certificate is to be registered, and a copy of the other is to be served on all proper parties. No further pleadings are required to be filed, but in the appointment a day is first given for deciding (if the fact is disputed, which may be done by filing a notice) whether the plaintiff is entitled to a lien. That fact not being contested, or if contested, being decided, the officer is to proceed to take all necessary accounts of the amounts due by the owner, and to the plaintiff and other lien holders, and make a report. The owner is enabled to get rid of the suit, as far as he is concerned, by promptly paying the amount due by him into court, whereupon the lien may be summarily discharged. Or if nothing is found due by him, the action may be dismissed. Where the action is brought by a sub-contractor, the owner is to file a statement of the amount, if any, he admits to be due, and if more is established against him than he so admits, he may be ordered to pay the costs so occasioned. In default of payment by the owner, the Master or Referee is empowered to issue a judgment for sale of the land, on which the usual proceedings are to be taken. The total costs of the proceedings are not in any case to exceed twenty-five per cent. of the amount recovered for the satisfaction of the lien, and where there is more than one lien, we presume the twenty-five per cent. is to be governed by the amount realized for the lienholders collectively, though this is not very clear from the statute. The Master or Referee is also empowered to grant a certificate to the lienholders for the balance remaining due to them, which may be filed in the proper court, and thereupon may be enforced as a judgment of such court.

By chap. 38 a further amendment is made to the Mechanics' Lien Act by increasing the amount of the contract price to be retained under s. 7 according to a graduated scale, ranging from fifteen per cent. to ten per cent., according to the amount of the contract price.

By chap. 39 sundry amendments are made to the "Act to secure wives and children the benefit of Life Insurance" (R.S.O., c. 136). By chap. 74 the Act Respecting the Property of Religious Institutions (R.S.O., c. 237) is extended to Jews. None of the other statutes seem to call for any particular mention here.