

the forenoon, nor extend beyond seven o'clock in the evening, with at least half an hour's intermission for lunch. On the other hand, limitations are imposed upon the reference of any matter within the competence of a judge. Local judges of the High Court are given jurisdiction over all cases arising under The Over-Holding Tenants' Act, and the words "without colour of right" are struck out of that statute. Every judge of a County Court hereafter appointed must be a barrister of ten years' standing, and no junior judge is to be appointed in any county having a population not exceeding 80,000. This attempt to raise the standard of the local judiciary will meet with general approval among country practitioners.

The subject of executions is dealt with, and provision made for the triennial renewal of writs, and for the seizure of the equity of redemption in stocks, and a limit may now be set to the term of imprisonment for contempt, and relief granted to persons who have been imprisoned for an indefinite period.

The foregoing is a necessarily brief and imperfect sketch of the changes made. It is to be hoped that the earnest endeavour to remove the causes of complaints respecting the administration of justice in civil matters, which these Acts manifest, will prove successful, and that they will receive a fair and honest trial at the hands of the judiciary, the legal profession, and the public before this branch of law is again thrown into confusion by a new cloud of amendments.

The law respecting jurors and juries is the subject of amendments relating to the method of selecting jurors, providing for the keeping of the jury panel secret, and imposing some new penalties for tampering with jurors. The latter provisions are extremely wholesome, for, while "jury fixing" has never been carried on in this country to the extent to which it prevails in some of the states of the American Union, there has been a growing suspicion that corrupt methods have been in vogue in certain localities, accounting for some very extraordinary verdicts, especially in criminal cases. The disbarring and striking off the roll of any member of the legal profession found guilty of corruptly influencing jurors is none too severe a punishment for so infamous an offence. By another Act the agreement of ten jurors is rendered sufficient to enable them to return a verdict or answers to questions in a civil action, and the illness or absence