

Hon. Mr. MacGregor.

LAW AMENDMENT.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to make certain Amendments in the Law.

Title.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as

follows:—

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Law Amendment Act, 1899." Short Title.
2. Any acknowledgment in writing by a creditor, or by any person authorised by him in that behalf, of the receipt of a part of his debt in satisfaction of the whole debt shall operate as a discharge of the debt, any rule of law notwithstanding. Discharge of debt by acceptance of part in satisfaction.
3. A judgment against one or more of several persons jointly liable shall not operate as a bar or defence to an action or other proceeding against those of such persons against whom judgment has not been recovered, except to the extent to which the judgment has been satisfied, any rule of law notwithstanding. Judgment against one of several persons jointly liable not a bar to action against others.
4. When a contract is proposed between parties at a distance, the acceptance of the proposal is deemed null and void when the revocation of the acceptance has been communicated to the proposer before the acceptance, or at the same time with it. Revocation of acceptance of proposal for a contract.
5. An executor or administrator is not personally liable on any covenant entered into by the testator or intestate as a lessee of land, any rule of law notwithstanding. Executor not personally liable for covenants in lease.

Trustees relieved from personal liability in certain cases.

6. If it appears to the Court that a trustee is or may be personally liable for any breach of trust (whether the transaction alleged to be a breach of trust occurred before or after the passing of this Act), but has acted honestly and reasonably, and ought fairly to be excused for the breach of trust, and for omitting to obtain the direction of the Court in the matter in which he committed such breach, then the Court may relieve the trustee either wholly or partly from personal liability for the same. In this section "trustee" includes "executor" and "administrator."

Liability of trustees registered as holders of shares.

7. Notwithstanding anything contained in any Act or in any memorandum of association or articles of association, or rules, regulations, or by-laws of any company registered or constituted under or pursuant to any Act of Parliament, any trustee or executor of any deceased person who was registered, or was equitably entitled to be registered, as the holder of a share in any such company, may, with the consent of the company or the directors thereof, and in the latter case with the consent of the registered holder, become registered as such trustee, executor, or administrator, and such trustee, executor, or administrator shall, in respect of such share, be subject to such and the same liabilities and no more as he would have been subjected to if such share had remained or been in the name of such deceased person.

Limitation of actions for wrongs.

8. Every enactment in which any longer period than one year is fixed as the period of limitation for an action or other proceeding in respect of a civil wrong, other than a proceeding which raises any question as to the title to real estate, shall be construed as if, instead of that longer period, the period of one year had been fixed therein; and all enactments referring to any such enactment shall be construed accordingly:

Provided that, if the wrong is not discovered at the time when it was committed, the period of limitation shall run from the time when the wrong might with reasonable diligence have been discovered, in like manner as if the wrong had been then committed: Provided that this shall not extend the time for bringing any action commenced after the passing of this Act for any longer period than would have been applicable if this Act had not passed. This section shall apply to an action founded on contract, where the action is brought in respect of a wrongful act, neglect, or default which might have been made the subject of an action founded on tort.

Damage for breach of promise of marriage.

9. In an action for damages for breach of promise of marriage, not more than five hundred pounds shall be recoverable as damages for the breach, except where the plaintiff, being a woman, proves to the satisfaction of the Court or the jury (where there is a jury) that the plaintiff has been seduced by the defendant.

Jurisdiction as to costs in administration suits.

10. In any action or other proceeding for the administration of any estate, commenced after the passing of this Act, no Court or Judge shall have jurisdiction to order or allow payment out of the estate to the party responsible for the commencement or continuance of such action, unless the Court or Judge shall first certify that there was some necessity for the action being commenced or continued.

11. No will, of which probate has been granted, or in respect of which letters of administration, with will annexed, have been granted, shall be declared or adjudicated to be invalid on the ground of the want of testamentary capacity in the testator, in any action or
5 other legal proceeding commenced after the expiration of twelve years from the date of the granting of such probate or letters of administration.

Limitation of time within which wills may be impeached.

VOLUNTARY CONVEYANCES.

12. (1.) Subject, as hereinafter mentioned, no voluntary conveyance of any lands, tenements, or hereditaments, whether made
10 before or after the passing of this Act, if in fact made *bona fide* and without any fraudulent intent, shall hereafter be deemed fraudulent or covinous within the meaning of the Act Twenty-seven Elizabeth, Chapter Four, by reason of any subsequent purchase for value, or be
15 defeated under any of the provisions of the said Act by a conveyance made upon any such purchase, any rule of law notwithstanding.

Voluntary conveyances, if *bona fide*, not to be voided under 27 Elizabeth, c. 4.

(2.) The section does not apply in any case in which the author of a voluntary conveyance of any lands, tenements, or hereditaments has subsequently, but before the passing of this Act, disposed of or
20 dealt with the same lands, tenements, or hereditaments to or in favour of a purchaser for value.

Saving transactions completed before passing of Act.

(3.) The expression "conveyance" includes every mode of disposition mentioned or referred to in the said Act of Elizabeth.

Definition of "conveyance."