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GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

THE DEKKHAN AGRICULTURISTS'
RELIEF ACT, 1879.

AS MODIFIED UP TO THE 1st JANUARY 1915.



BOMBAY
PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS
1915

PREFACE.

The Dekkhan Agriculturists' Relief Act, 1879 (XVII of 1879), has been repealed in part by Acts XII of 1891 and XVI of 1895, repealed in part and amended by Acts XXIII of 1881, XXII of 1882, XXIII of 1886, VI of 1895 and amended by Bom. Acts I of 1902, II of 1907, I of 1910, and I of 1912.

The following changes have been made in reprinting the Act:—

- (1) repealed matter has been omitted, explanatory notes being inserted:
- (2) amendments have been inserted in their proper places, with explanatory footnotes:
- (3) references to repealed Acts have been altered as directed by the enactment which effects the repeal, explanatory footnotes being inserted:
- (4) some footnotes have been added for convenience of reference:
- (5) section-numbers occurring in the text have been uniformly printed in figures:
- (6) the number and year of Acts referred to in the text have been noted in the inner margin, except where both appear in the text:
- (7) the headings to the pages have been amplified:
- (8) the marginal notes have, in some instances, been revised.

ACT No. XVII OF 1879.

An Act for the Relief of Indebted Agriculturists in certain parts of the Dekkhan.

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ACT No. XVII OF 1879.

*An Act for the Relief of Indebted Agriculturists
in certain parts of the Dekkhan.*

*(Received the assent of the Governor General
on the 29th October, 1879.)*

WHEREAS it is expedient to relieve the Preamble.
Agricultural classes in certain parts of the
Dekkhan from indebtedness ; It is hereby enacted as
follows :—

CHAPTER I.

PRELIMINARY.

1. This Act may be cited as the Dekkhan Agri- Short title.
culturists' Relief Act, 1879 : [a]

and it shall come into force on the first day of Commence-
November, 1879. ment.

[b] This section and [b] sections 11, 56, 60 and 62 Local extent.
extend to the whole of British India. The rest of
this Act extends only to the districts of Poona, Sátára,
Sholápur

[a] Acts XVII of 1879, XXIII of 1881 and XXII of 1882 may be cited collectively as the Dekkhan Agriculturists' Relief Acts, 1879 to 1882—see Act XXII of 1882, s. 1 (1). The Acts of 1879 to 1882 and Act XXIII of 1886 may be cited collectively as the Dekkhan Agriculturists' Relief Acts, 1879 to 1886—see Act XXIII of 1886, s. 1 (1). The Acts of 1879 to 1886 and Act VI of 1895 may be cited collectively as the Dekkhan Agriculturists' Relief Acts, 1879 to 1895—see Act VI of 1895, s. 1 (1). The Acts of 1879 to 1895 and Bom. Act I of 1902 may be cited collectively as the Dekkhan Agriculturists' Relief Acts, 1879 to 1902—see Bom. Act I of 1902, s. 1 (1).

[b-b] These words were inserted by Act XXIII of 1881, s. 3, and are to be deemed to have always been inserted.

(Chapter I.—Preliminary.—Section 2.)

Sholápur and Ahmednagar, [a]but may, from time to time, be extended wholly or in part by the Local Government, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, to any other district or districts in the Presidency of Bombay, [a] [b]or to any part or parts of any other such district or districts[b].

Construction. [c]2. In constructing this Act, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context, the following rules shall be observed, namely:—

1st.—“Agriculturist” shall be taken to mean a person who by himself or by his servants or by his tenants earns his livelihood wholly or principally by agriculture carried on within the limits of a district or part of a district to which this Act may for the time being extend, or who ordinarily engages personally in agricultural labour within those limits.

Explanations.—(a) An agriculturist who, without any intention of changing his status as such, temporarily ceases to earn his livelihood by agriculture or to engage personally in agricultural labour as aforesaid, or who is prevented from so earning his livelihood or engaging in agriculture by age or bodily infirmity or by necessary absence in the military service of Her Majesty, does not thereby cease to be an agriculturist within this definition.

(b) An assignee of Government assessment or a mortgagee is not as such an agriculturist within this definition.

2nd.—In chapters II, III, IV and VI, and in section 69, the term “agriculturist,” when used with reference to any suit or proceeding, shall include a person who, when any part of the liability which forms the subject of that suit or proceeding was incurred, was an agriculturist within the meaning of that word as then defined by law.

3rd.—An

[a-a] These words were added by Act XXIII of 1886, s. 3.

[b b] These words were added by Act VI of 1895, s. 4.

[c] This section was substituted for the original section 2 by Act VI of 1895, s. 5.

(Chapter I.—Preliminary.—Section 2A. Chapter II.—Of the Hearing of certain Suits by Subordinate Judges.—Section 3.)

3rd.—An agriculturist shall be deemed to reside where he earns his livelihood by agriculture or personally engages in agricultural labour as aforesaid.

4th.—“Money” shall be deemed to include agricultural produce, implements and stock.

5th.—“Lease” shall be deemed to include a counterpart, kabuliyat, an undertaking to cultivate or occupy, and an agreement to lease.

6th.—“Standing crops” shall include crops of all sorts attached to the soil, and leaves, flowers, and fruits upon, and juice in, trees and shrubs.

[*]7th.—For the purposes of Chapters VIII and VIII-A an instrument or a copy of an instrument drawn up on a printed form by or under the superintendence of a village-registrar or of a sub-registrar shall be deemed to be an instrument or copy written or made by or under the superintendence of such registrar or sub-registrar. In this clause the term ‘printed form’ shall be deemed to include a form prepared by any mechanical copying press.

[^b]2A. Every jágirdár and other authority invested with powers under Bombay Regulation XIII of 1830 and Act XV of 1840 shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be a Subordinate Judge of such class as the Local Government may from time to time direct.

Jágirdárs,
etc., to be
deemed
Subordinate
Judges.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE HEARING OF CERTAIN SUITS BY SUBORDINATE JUDGES.

3. The provisions of this chapter shall apply to—
- (a) suits for an account, [^c]whatever be the amount or value of the subject-matter thereof, [^e] instituted

Application
of this
chapter.

[^a] Clause 7 was inserted by Act I of 1910, serial No. 1 of the First Schedule.

[^b] Section 2A was inserted by Act XXII of 1882, s. 4.

[^{c-e}] These words were inserted by Act XXII of 1882, s. 5.

(Chapter II.—Of the Hearing of certain suits by Subordinate Judges.—Section 3.)

instituted [a] by an agriculturist in the Court of a Subordinate Judge under the provisions hereinafter contained, and

(b) suits of the descriptions next hereinafter mentioned [b]—

(1) when such suits are heard by Subordinate Judges of the first class and the subject-matter thereof does not exceed in amount or value five hundred rupees, or

(2) when such suits are heard by Subordinate Judges of the second class and the subject-matter thereof does not exceed in amount or value one hundred rupees, or

(3) when such suits are heard by Subordinate Judges of the second class and the subject-matter thereof exceeds one hundred rupees but does not exceed five hundred rupees, in amount or value, and the parties to the suits agree that such provisions shall apply thereto.

The descriptions of suits referred to in clause (b) are the following, namely :—

(w) suits for the recovery of money alleged to be due to the plaintiff—

on account of money lent or advanced to, or paid for, the defendant, or

as the price of goods sold, or

on an account stated between the plaintiff and defendant, or

on a written or unwritten engagement for the payment of money not hereinbefore provided for ;

(x) suits

[a] and [b] Words repealed by Act XVI of 1895 are omitted.

(Chapter II.—Of the Hearing of certain Suits by Subordinate Judges—Sections 4-6.)

- (x) suits for recovery of money due on contracts other than the above and suits for rent or for moveable property, or for the value of such property, or for damages ; and
- (y) suits for foreclosure or for the possession of mortgaged property, or for sale of such property, or for foreclosure and[*] sale, when the defendant, or any one of the defendants,[^b] is an agriculturist ; and
- (z) suits for the redemption of mortgaged property when the plaintiff, or, where there are several plaintiffs, any one of the plaintiffs, is an agriculturist.

4. Where a Subordinate Judge of the first class and a Subordinate Judge of the second class have ordinary jurisdiction in the same local area, every suit referred to in section 3, clause (b), and instituted in such local area shall, if the amount or value of the subject-matter of such suit exceeds one hundred rupees and does not exceed five hundred rupees, be instituted in the Court of the Subordinate Judge of the first class.

Certain suits to be instituted in Courts of first class Subordinate Judges.

5. Notwithstanding anything contained in the XIV of Bombay Civil Courts Act, 1869, section 28, no 1869. Subordinate Judge shall be invested with the jurisdiction of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes[^c].

Subordinate Judges not to act as Judges of Small Cause Courts.

6. The Local Government may, from time to time, by notification in the local Gazette, direct that any class of suits which a Subordinate Judge would be precluded from hearing by section 16 of the Provincial Small Cause Courts Act, 1887,[^d] shall be heard and determined by him and not otherwise, and may, by a like notification, cancel any such direction.

Jurisdiction of Subordinate Judge and Small Cause Court.

7. In

[a] "And" was substituted for "or" by Act XXIII of 1896, s. 5.
 [b] Words repealed by Act XXIII of 1881 are omitted.
 [c] Words repealed by Act XVI of 1895 are omitted.
 [d] The reference to section 12 of Act XI of 1865 is altered in accordance with Act IX of 1887, s. 2.

(Chapter II—Of the Hearing of certain Suits by Subordinate Judges.—Sections 7–10. Chapter III.—Of Suits and other Proceedings to which Agriculturists are Parties.—Section 10-A.)

Summons to be for final disposal of suit.

✓ 7. In every case in which it seems to the Court possible to dispose of a suit at the first hearing, the summons shall be for the final disposal of the suit.

Court to examine defendant as witness.

In every suit the Court shall examine the defendant as a witness unless, for reasons to be recorded by it in writing, it deems it clearly^[a] unnecessary so to do.

^[b]*Explanation.*—The compulsory examination of the defendant shall not be dispensed with merely by reason of the fact that the defendant has filed a written statement.

8. [*Written statements.*] Repealed by Act VI of 1895, s. 3.

9. [*Record of evidence.*] Repealed by Act VI of 1895, s. 3.

No appeal to lie.

10. No appeal shall lie from any decree or order passed in any suit to which this chapter applies.

CHAPTER III.

OF SUITS AND OTHER PROCEEDINGS TO WHICH AGRICULTURISTS ARE PARTIES.

✓ ^[c] 10-A. Whenever it is alleged at any stage of any suit or proceeding to which an agriculturist is a party that any transaction in issue entered into by such agriculturist or the person, if any, through whom he claims was a transaction of such a nature that the rights and liabilities of the parties thereunder are triable wholly or in part under this chapter, the Court shall, notwithstanding anything contained in section 92 of the Indian Evidence Act

[a] “ Clearly ” was added by Act VI of 1895, s. 6.

[b] This *Explanation* was inserted by Act VI of 1895, s. 6.

[c] Section 10-A was introduced by Bombay Act II of 1907, s. 2.

(Chapter III.—Of Suits and other Proceedings to which Agriculturists are Parties.—Section 10-A.)

I of 1872. Act, 1872, or in any other law for the time being in force, have power to inquire into and determine the real nature of such transaction and decide such suit or proceeding in accordance with such determination and shall be at liberty, notwithstanding anything contained in any law as aforesaid, to admit evidence of any oral agreement or statement with a view to such determination and decision :

provided that such agriculturist or the person, if any, through whom he claims was an agriculturist at the time of such transaction :

provided further that nothing in this section shall be deemed to apply to any suit to which a *bonâ fide* transferee for value without notice of the real nature of such transaction or his representative is a party where such transferee or representative holds under a registered deed executed more than twelve years before the institution of such suit.

Illustrations.

(a) A landlord sues for possession of land leased by him to an agriculturist. The defendant alleges that he mortgaged the land with possession to the lessor, who is entitled to its possession only as such mortgagee and not as owner, and asks that he may be allowed to redeem the mortgage without being ejected. The Court may admit evidence on this allegation, and, if satisfied that it is correct, may decline to eject the defendant as tenant, and allow the suit to be converted into one for redemption of the mortgaged property.

(b) An agriculturist sues to redeem property alleged to have been mortgaged by a deed in the form of a lease. The Court may admit evidence of the intention of the parties outside the deed in order to determine whether the transaction was a mortgage or a lease, and if satisfied that the transaction was a mortgage may enforce the deed as a mortgage-deed.

(c) A

(Chapter III.—Of Suits and other Proceedings to which Agriculturists are Parties.—Sections 11—12.)

(c) A money-lender sues to enforce a sale-deed entered into by an agriculturist. It is alleged that there was a contemporaneous oral agreement that the transaction should be deemed to be a mortgage. The Court may admit evidence of such oral agreement, and if satisfied of the existence of the agreement may decline to enforce the deed as a sale-deed.

(d) An agriculturist sues to redeem property alleged to have been mortgaged by a deed in the form of a sale. The Court may admit evidence of the intention of the parties outside the deed in order to determine whether the transaction was a mortgage or a sale, and if satisfied that the transaction was a mortgage may enforce the deed as a mortgage-deed.

✓
Agricul-
turists to be
sued where
they reside.

11. Every suit of the description mentioned in section 3, clause (w), may, if the defendant, or, when there are several defendants, one only of such defendants, is an agriculturist, be instituted and tried in a Court within the local limits of whose jurisdiction such defendant resides, and not elsewhere.

Every such suit in which there are several defendants who are agriculturists may be instituted and tried in a Court within the local limits of whose jurisdiction any one of such defendants resides, and not elsewhere.

Nothing herein contained shall affect sections 22 to 25 (both inclusive) of the Code of Civil Procedure^[a].

✓
History of
transactions
with agricul-
turist-debtors
to be investi-
gated.

12. In any suit of the description mentioned in section 3, clause (w), in which the defendant or any one of the defendants ^[b]is an agriculturist,

and in any suit of the descriptions mentioned in section 3, clause (y) or clause (z),

The

[a] This reference to the Code of Civil Procedure should now be read as applying to the Code of 1908, V of 1908.

[b] Words repealed by Act XXIII of 1881 are omitted.

(Chapter III.—Of Suits and other Proceedings to which Agriculturists are Parties.—Section 13.)

[*]the Court, if the amount of the creditor's claim is disputed, shall examine both the plaintiff and the defendant as witnesses, unless, for reasons to be recorded by it in writing, it deems it unnecessary so to do, and shall enquire[*] into the history and merits of the case, from the commencement of the transactions between the parties and the persons (if any) through whom they claim, out of which the suit has arisen, first with a view to ascertaining whether there is any defence to the suit on the ground of fraud, mistake, accident, undue influence or otherwise, and, secondly, with a view to taking an account between such parties in manner hereinafter provided.

When the amount of the claim is admitted and the Court for reasons to be recorded by it in writing believes that such admission is true and is made by the debtor with a full knowledge of his legal rights as against the creditor, the Court shall not be bound so to enquire, but may do so if it thinks fit.

In other cases in which the amount of the claim is admitted the Court shall be bound to enquire as aforesaid.

Section 9, clause first, of Bombay Regulation V of 1827 is repealed so far as regards any suit to which this section applies.

Nothing herein contained shall affect the right of the parties to require that any matter in difference between them be referred to arbitration.

✓ 13. When the Court enquires into the history and merits of a case under section 12, it shall— Mode of taking account.

Notwithstanding any agreement between the parties or the persons (if any) through whom they claim, as to allowing compound interest or setting-off the profits of mortgaged property without an account

[*] These words were substituted for the original words by Act XXII of 1856, s. 6.

(Chapter III.—Of Suits and other Proceedings to which Agriculturists are Parties.—Section 13.)

account in lieu of interest, or otherwise determining the manner of taking the account,

and notwithstanding any statement or settlement of account or any contract purporting to close previous dealings and create a new obligation,

open the account between the parties from the commencement of the transactions and take that account according to the following rules (that is to say) :—

- (a) separate accounts of principal and interest shall be taken :
- (b) in the account of principal there shall be debited to the debtor such money as may from time to time have been actually received by him or on his account from the creditor, and the price of goods, if any, sold to him by the creditor as part of the transactions :
- (c) in the account of principal there shall not be debited to the debtor any money which he may have agreed to pay in contravention of section 257A of the Code of Civil Procedure : [a]
- (d) in the account of principal there shall not be debited to the debtor any accumulated interest which has been converted into principal at any statement or settlement of account or by any contract made in the course of the transactions, unless the Court, for reasons to be recorded by it in writing, deems such debit to be reasonable :
- (e) in the account of interest there shall be debited to the debtor, monthly, simple interest,

[a] This reference to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1882, should now be read as applying to the Code of 1908, V of 1908.

(Chapter III.—Of Suits and other Proceedings to which Agriculturists are parties.—Section 13A.)

interest, on the balance of principal for the time being outstanding, at the rate allowed by the Court as hereinafter provided :

(f) all money paid by or on account of the debtor to the creditor or on his account, and all profits, service or other advantages of every description, received by the creditor in the course of the transactions (estimated, if necessary, at such money-value as the Court in its discretion, or with the aid of arbitrators appointed by it, may determine), shall be credited first in the account of interest; and when any payment is more than sufficient to discharge the balance of interest due at the time it is made, the residue of such payment shall be credited to the debtor in the account of principal :

(g) the accounts of principal and interest shall be made up to the date of instituting the suit, and the aggregate of the balances (if any) appearing due on both such accounts against the debtor on that date shall be deemed to be the amount due at that date, except when the balance appearing due on the interest-account exceeds that appearing due on the principal account, in which case double the latter balance shall be deemed to be the amount then due.

✓ [°]13A. Where the mortgaged property is in the possession of the mortgagee or his tenants other than the mortgagor, and the Court is unable to determine what profits have been actually received, it may fix a fair rent for such property and charge to the

In certain cases rent may be charged in lieu of profits.

(Chapter III.—Of suits and other Proceedings to which Agriculturists are Parties.—Sections 14-15B.)

to the mortgagee such rent as profits for the purpose of section 13 :

Provided that, if it be proved that in any year there was an entire or serious failure of the crops, an abatement of the whole or part of such rent may be allowed for the year.

14. [*Interest to be allowed.*] Repealed by Act VI of 1895, s. 3.

15. [*Reference to arbitration in certain cases.*] Repealed by Act VI of 1895, s. 3.

Mortgagor entitled to decree for redemption though time fixed by mortgage has not arrived or debt has not been paid.

[^a]15A. In a suit of the description mentioned in section 3, clause (z), the Court shall not refuse to pass a decree for redemption merely on the ground that the time fixed for the payment of the principal of the mortgage-money has not arrived, or on the ground that the mortgage-debt has not been completely discharged, or on both.

Power of Court to name some future date for payment by the mortgagor.

[^b]15AA. So far as it may be consistent with the provisions of this Act, every decree for redemption or foreclosure of any mortgage, and every decree or order for the sale of any mortgaged property made at the instance of a mortgagee thereof, shall name such future day, not being less than six months after the date of such decree, as the Court may think reasonable for the payment by the mortgagor of the money payable under the decree, and no such foreclosure shall be made absolute nor shall any such sale take place before the day so named.

Power to order payment by instalments in case of decree for re-

[^a]15B. (1) The Court may in its discretion, in passing a decree for redemption, foreclosure or sale in any suit of the descriptions mentioned in section 3, clause (y) or clause (z), or in the course of any proceedings

[a] The sections 15A, 15B, 15C and 15D here printed were inserted by Act XXII of 1892, s. 6.

[b] S. 15AA was added by Act VI of 1895, s. 3.

(Chapter III.—Of Suits and other Proceedings to which Agriculturists are Parties.—Section 15 B.)

ceedings under a decree for redemption, foreclosure or sale passed in any such suit, whether before or after this Act comes into force, direct that any amount payable by the mortgagor under that decree shall be payable in such instalments, on such dates and on such terms as to the payment of interest, and where the mortgagee is in possession, as to the appropriation of the profits and accounting therefor, as it thinks fit.

(2) If a sum payable under any such direction is not paid when due, the Court shall, except for reasons to be recorded by it in writing, instead of making an order for the sale of the entire property mortgaged or for foreclosure, order the sale of such portion only of the property as it may think necessary for the realisation of that sum.

[*] (3) In passing a decree for redemption or foreclosure in any such suit as aforesaid, the Court may direct that the amount payable by the mortgagor shall be discharged by continuing the mortgagee in possession for such further period as will enable him to recover his principal with reasonable interest, and that on the expiry of such period the property mortgaged shall be restored to the mortgagor.

[*] (4) When the amount payable to a mortgagee in possession has been determined in any such suit as aforesaid, the Court may in its discretion, instead of making an order for payment thereof, direct that the mortgagee be continued in possession for such period (to be specified by the Court) as will in the opinion of the Court be sufficient to enable him to recover from the profits the amount payable by the mortgagor together with reasonable interest, and that on the expiry of such period the property mortgaged shall be restored to the mortgagor.

15C. (1) The

[*] Sub-sections (3) and (4) were added by Act VI of 1895, s. 9.

(Chapter III.—Of Suits and other Proceedings to which Agriculturists are Parties.—Sections 15C.-15D.)

Power to order payment by instalments in suits for possession of mortgaged property.

[^a] 15C. (1) The Court may, if it thinks fit, in any suit for the possession of mortgaged property under section 3, clause (y), instead of passing a decree for possession of that property, pass a decree directing that the amount payable by the mortgagor shall be payable in such instalments, on such dates and on such terms as to the payment of interest, and as to the appropriation of the profits and accounting therefor, as it thinks fit.

(2) If a sum payable under any such direction is not paid when due, the Court may, if it thinks fit, instead of making any other order which it is empowered to make for the realisation of that sum, make an order directing that the mortgagee be put in possession of the whole or any portion of the property mortgaged.

Mortgagor may sue for account.

[^a] 15D. (1) Any agriculturist whose property is mortgaged may sue for an account of the amount of principal and interest remaining unpaid on the mortgage and for a decree declaring that amount.

(2) When any such suit is brought, the amount (if any) remaining unpaid shall be determined under the same rules as would be applicable under this Act if the mortgagee had sued for the recovery of the debt.

(3) At any time before the decree in the suit is signed, the plaintiff may apply to the Court to pass a decree for the redemption of the mortgage, or the mortgagee, if he would then have been entitled to sue for foreclosure or sale, may apply to the Court to pass a decree for foreclosure or sale (as the case may be), instead of a decree merely declaring the amount remaining unpaid, and the Court may, if it thinks fit, grant the application.

(4) The provisions of section 15B shall apply to any decree passed under sub-section (3).

16. Any

[^a] See footnote [^a] on p. 12, *supra*.

(Chapter III.—Of Suits and other Proceedings to which Agriculturists are Parties—Sections 16-19.)

16. Any agriculturist may sue for an account of money lent or advanced to or paid for him by a creditor, or due by him to the creditor as the price of goods sold, or on a written or unwritten engagement for the payment of money, and of money paid by him to the creditor, and for a decree declaring the amount, if any, still payable by him to the creditor.

Agriculturist-debtors may sue for accounts.

When any such suit is brought, the amount (if any) payable by the plaintiff shall be determined under the same rules as would be applicable under this Act if the creditor had sued him for recovery of the debt.

Amount of debts in such cases to be determined according to foregoing provisions.

17. A decree passed under section 16 may, besides declaring the amount due, direct that such amount shall be paid by instalments, with or without interest; and, when any such decree so directs, the plaintiff may pay the amount of such decree, or the amount of each instalment fixed by such decree, as it falls due, into Court, in default whereof execution of the decree may be enforced by the defendant in the same manner as if he had obtained a decree in a suit to recover the debt.

Decree under section 16 may provide for payment by instalments.

Execution of decrees under this section.

18. The plaintiff in any suit instituted under section 16 may at any stage of such suit deposit in Court such sum of money as he considers a satisfaction in full of the defendant's claim against him.

Payment into Court in cases under section 16.

Notice of the deposit shall be given by the Court to the defendant, and the amount of the deposit shall (unless the Court otherwise directs) be paid to the defendant on his application.

No interest shall be allowed to the defendant on any sum so deposited from the date of the receipt of such notice, whether the sum deposited be in full of the claim or fall short thereof.

19. [*Power to discharge judgment-debtor. Power to direct institution of insolvency proceedings.*] Repealed by Act VI of 1895, s. 3.

20. The

(Chapter III.—Of Suits and other Proceedings to which Agriculturists are Parties.—Sections 20-22.)

Power to fix instalments in execution.

20. The Court may at any time direct that the amount of any decree passed, whether before or after this Act comes into force, against an agriculturist, or the portion of the same which it directs under section 19 to be paid, shall be paid by instalments with or without interest.

Arrest and imprisonment in execution of decree for money abolished.

21. No agriculturist shall be arrested or imprisoned in execution of a decree for money ^[a] passed whether before or after this Act comes into force. ^[a]

Immoveable property exempted from attachment and sale unless specifically pledged.

22. ^[b]Immoveable property belonging to an agriculturist ^[c] shall not be attached or sold ^[b] in execution of any decree or order ^[d] passed whether before or after this Act comes into force, ^[d] unless it has been specifically mortgaged for the repayment of the debt to which such decree or order relates, and the security still subsists. ^[e] For the purposes of any such attachment or sale as aforesaid standing crops shall be deemed to be moveable property. ^[e]

But the Court, ^[f] on application or of its own motion, ^[f] may, when passing a decree against an agriculturist or ^[g] in the course of any proceedings under a decree against an agriculturist passed whether before or after this Act comes into force, ^[g] direct the Collector to take possession, for any period not exceeding seven years, of any such property of the judgment-debtor to the possession of which he is entitled, and which, in the opinion of the Collector, is not required for his support and the support of the members of his family dependent
on

[a-a] These words were added by Act XXII of 1882, s. 8.

[b-b] These words were substituted for the original words by Act XXIII of 1886, s. 7.

[c] Words repealed by Act VI of 1895, s. 10, are omitted.

[d-d] These words were inserted by Act XXII of 1882, s. 9 (1).

[e-e] These words were inserted by Act VI of 1895, s. 10.

[f-f] These words were inserted by Act XXII of 1882, s. 9 (2).

[g-g] These words were substituted for the original words by Act XXII of 1882, s. 9 (3).

(Chapter III.—Of Suits and other Proceedings to which Agriculturists are Parties.—Sections 22A-23.
Chapter IV.—Of Insolvency.—Section 24.)

on him, and the Collector shall thereupon take possession of such property and deal with the same for the benefit of the decree-holder in manner provided by section 29.

The provisions of section 31 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to any property so dealt with.

22A. [a](1) When any immoveable property belonging to an agriculturist has been sold by public auction under the provisions of section 325 of the Code of Civil Procedure, [b] the sale may within thirty days from the date of the auction be set aside by the Collector, if he considers the price bid by the purchaser to be inadequate.

(2) When the sale is so set aside the purchaser shall be entitled to receive back his deposit or his purchase-money, as the case may be, and the Collector may re-sell the property by public auction or private contract, as he thinks fit. Every such re-sale shall be deemed to be a sale under the provisions of section 325 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

23. No provision of this chapter shall apply to the proceedings in the Courts of Village-munsifs unless such provision has been specially extended thereto under the power hereinafter conferred.

(chapter not to apply to Village-munsifs' Courts.)

CHAPTER IV.

OF INSOLVENCY.

24. Every Subordinate Judge shall have the powers conferred by sections 344 to 359 (both inclusive) of the Code of Civil Procedure, [b] as modified

Subordinate Judges to have jurisdiction in agriculturists' cases.

[a] Section 22A was introduced by Bombay Act No. II of 1907, s. 3.

[b] The references to the Code of Civil Procedure should now be read as applying to the Code of 1903, V of 1908.

(Chapter IV.—Of Insolvency.—Sections 25-29.)

modified by the provisions next hereinafter contained, for the purpose of dealing with applications under the Code of Civil Procedure [a] or under this Act to have agriculturists residing within the local limits of his ordinary jurisdiction declared insolvent and proceedings taken under orders passed under the second clause of section 19; and, except as provided in Chapter VII of this Act, no such application or proceeding shall be dealt with by any other Court.

Agriculturists may apply for adjudication in cases not provided for by Code.

25. Any agriculturist whose debts (if any) amount to fifty rupees or upwards may apply to any Subordinate Judge within the local limits of whose ordinary jurisdiction he resides to be declared an insolvent, though he has not been arrested or imprisoned, and though no order of attachment has issued against his property, in execution of a decree.

Modification of section 351 of the Code.

26. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 351 of the Code of Civil Procedure [a] the Court shall declare an agriculturist an insolvent if it is satisfied that he is in insolvent circumstances, and that the application to have him declared an insolvent has been properly made under section 344 of the said Code [a] or section 25 of this Act.

Receiver.

27. No person other than the Nazir of the Court shall be appointed as Receiver, and no Receiver shall be entitled to commission.

Proof of debts.

28. In determining under section 352 of the said Code [a] the amount of any claim of the nature referred to in section 12 of this Act due by an insolvent agriculturist, the Court shall proceed in the manner prescribed by sections 12 to 15 of this Act, both inclusive.

Immoveable property not to vest in Receiver, but may be managed for benefit of creditors.

29. No immoveable property of the insolvent shall vest in the Receiver; but the Court, [b] on application or of its own motion, [b] may direct the Collector

[a] These references to the Code of Civil Procedure should now be read as applying to the Code of 1908, V of 1908.

[b] These words were inserted by Act XXII of 1882, s. 10.

(Chapter IV.—Of Insolvency.—Section 30.)

Collector to take into his possession, for any period not exceeding seven years from the date on which the Receiver has been appointed, any immoveable property to the possession of which the insolvent is entitled, and which, in the opinion of the Collector, is not required for the support of the insolvent and the members of his family dependent on him, and, subject to any rules the Local Government may from time to time make in this behalf, to manage the same for the benefit of the creditors by letting it on lease or otherwise :

Provided that, if the insolvent or his representative in interest at any time pays into Court the balance of the scheduled debts then unpaid, he shall, subject to any rights created in favour of other persons by the Collector, be entitled to recover possession of such property.

Bom.
V of
1879.

A Collector managing property under this section shall during the management have all the powers which the owner might as such have legally exercised, and shall receive and recover all rents and profits of such property, and for the purpose of recovering such rents and profits shall have, in addition to any powers possessed by an owner, all powers possessed by a Collector for securing and recovering the land-revenue due to Government except the powers mentioned in the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879, section 150, clauses (b), (d) and (e).

Nothing in this section shall authorise the Court to direct the Collector to take into his possession any houses or other buildings belonging to and occupied by an agriculturist.

30. When any scheduled debt is secured by a ^{Secured} mortgage of any portion of the insolvent's immove- ^{debts.} able property, the Court, [a] on application or of its own motion, [a] may direct the Collector if he can obtain

[a-a] These words were inserted by Act XXII of 1882, s. 10.

(Chapter IV.—Of Insolvency.—Sections 31-33.)

obtain a premium equal to the amount of such debt by letting such property for a term not exceeding twenty years, to let such property, and, if he cannot so obtain such premium, to sell such property under section 325 of the Code of Civil Procedure.^[a]

Where property is let under this section the premium shall be applied to the payment of the debt, and the rent, if any, shall for a period of seven years from the date of such letting be paid to the Receiver and thereafter to the insolvent or his representative in interest.

When property is sold under this section, the sale-proceeds shall be applied, first, to the payment of the debt, and the balance, if any, shall be paid to the Receiver.

Insolvent incompetent to sell, etc, property dealt with under sections 29 and 30.

31. So long as any management under section 29 or letting under section 30 continues, the insolvent and his representative in interest shall be incompetent to mortgage, charge, lease or alienate the property managed or let, or any part thereof.

Scheduled debts discharged.

32. When the balance available for distribution among the scheduled creditors under section 356 of the said Code ^[a] has been distributed, the claims of such creditors shall be deemed to have been discharged, except as regards the right to share in the profits of any property managed by the Collector under section 29, or let by him under section 30.

Appeals barred.

33. No appeal shall lie from any order passed under this chapter except orders passed in exercise of the power conferred by section 359 of the Code of Civil Procedure.^[a]

34. The

[a] This reference to the Code of Civil Procedure should now be read as applying to the Code of 1908, V of 1908.

(Chapter V.—Of Village-Munsifs —
Sections 34-36.)

CHAPTER V.

OF VILLAGE-MUNSIFS.

34. The Local Government may, from time to time, appoint any pátel of a village or any other person possessing local influence in a village to be a Village-munsif for such village or for such village and for any other villages the sites of which are situate in the same district not more than two miles from the site of such village, and may cancel any such appointment.

Appointment
of Village-
munsifs.

35. Every Village-munsif so appointed shall take cognizance of suits of the description mentioned in section 3, clause (w), when the subject-matter thereof does not exceed ten rupees in amount or value, and all the defendants at the time of the commencement of the suit actually and voluntarily reside or carry on business or personally work for gain within the local area for which such Village-munsif is appointed.

Suits triable
by them.

Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained a suit cognizable by a Village-munsif shall not be heard by any other Court :

Jurisdiction
of other
Courts
excluded.

Provided that the District Judge may, from time to time, transfer any suit instituted before a Village-munsif to his own Court or any other Civil Court in the district for trial :

Proviso.

Provided also that no Village-munsif shall try any suit to or in which he is a party or is personally interested, or shall adjudicate upon any proceeding connected with or arising out of such suit.

36. The District Judge may, on a petition being presented within thirty days from the date of any decree or order of a Village-munsif by any party deeming himself aggrieved by such decree or order, set aside such decree or order on the ground of corruption, gross partiality or misconduct of the Village-

District
Judge's
power of
revision.

(*Chapter V.—Of Village-munsifs.—Section 37.*
Chapter VI.—Of Conciliation.—Section 38.)

Village-munsif^[a] or on the ground that the Village-munsif has exercised a jurisdiction not vested in him by law^[a] and pass such other decree or order as he thinks fit.

Except as provided in this Act and in section 622 of the Code of Civil Procedure,^[b] every decree and order of a Village-munsif shall be final.

Power of
Local
Government
to make rules.

37. The Local Government may, from time to time, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules consistent with this Act for regulating the procedure of Village-munsifs and for conferring on them or any of them all or any of the powers for the trial of suits or the execution of decrees exercised by a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure^[b] or any other enactment for the time being in force.

CHAPTER VI.

OF CONCILIATION.

Appointment
of Con-
ciliators.

38. The Local Government may, from time to time, appoint any person other than an officer of Police to be a Conciliator, and may cancel any such appointment.

Every Conciliator appointed under this section shall be appointed only for a term not exceeding three years, but may on the expiration of the period for which he has been appointed be again appointed for a further term not exceeding three years.

Every Conciliator so appointed shall exercise his functions under this Act in respect of matters affecting agriculturists residing within such local area as the Local Government may, from time to time, prescribe.

[a-a] These words were added by Act VI of 1895, s. 11.

[b] These references to the Code of Civil Procedure should now be read as applying to the Code of 1908, V of 1908.

(Chapter VI.—Of Conciliation.—Sections 39-40.)

[^a]The expression "officer of police" in this section shall not be deemed to include a police pátel appointed under Bombay Act No. VIII of 1867 (*for the Regulation of the Village-Police in the Presidency of Bombay*).

39. When any dispute arises as to, or there is a prospect of litigation regarding, any matter within the cognizance of a Civil Court between two or more parties one of whom is an agriculturist residing within any local area for which a Conciliator has been appointed, or when application for execution of any decree in any suit to which any such agriculturist is a party, and which was passed before the date on which this Act comes into force, is contemplated, any of the parties may apply to such Conciliator to effect an amicable settlement between them.

Matters which may be brought before Conciliator.

40. If the application be made by one of the parties only, the Conciliator shall take down, or cause to be taken down, in writing a concise statement of the applicant's case, and shall thereupon, by summons or by such other means as he deems fit, invite the person against whom such application is made to attend before him at a time and place to be fixed for this purpose, and shall direct the applicant also to be present at such time and place.

Procedure thereupon.

If such person fails to appear at the time first fixed, the Conciliator may, if he thinks fit, from time to time, extend the period for his appearance.

Day for attendance may from time to time be postponed.

[^b]A Conciliator empowered by the Local Government in this behalf may, instead of inviting, direct the person against whom the application is made to attend at the time and place either first or subsequently fixed.

[^b]If an applicant, or a person against whom an application is made, fails to be present or attend at the time and place specified in a direction proceeding from

[a] This para. was added by Act XXIII of 1881, s. 7.

[b] These paras. were added by Act XXIII of 1886, s. 8.

(Chapter VI.—Of Conciliation.—Sections 41-44.)

from a Conciliator under this section, he shall be deemed to have committed an offence under section 174 of the Indian Penal Code. XLV
of
1860.

When all parties appear, Conciliator to endeavour to reconcile them.

41. Whenever all the parties are present, the Conciliator shall call upon each in turn to explain his case regarding the matter in question, and shall use his best endeavours to induce them to agree to an amicable settlement or to submit such matter to arbitration.

Conciliator to hear statements of witnesses, &c.

42. The Conciliator shall hear but shall not record the statement of any witness, and shall peruse any book of account or other document produced by the parties, or so much thereof as may be necessary, and, if any party or witness consents in writing to affirm any statement upon oath in any form not repugnant to justice or decency and not purporting to affect any third person, shall provide for such oath being duly taken in the presence of all the parties.

Any agreement arrived at to be reduced to writing.

43. If on the day on which the case is first heard by the Conciliator, or on any subsequent day to which he may adjourn the hearing, the parties come to any agreement, either finally disposing of the matter or for referring it to arbitration, such agreement shall be forthwith reduced to writing, and shall be read and explained to the parties, and shall be signed or otherwise authenticated by the Conciliator and the parties respectively.

Explanation.—A Conciliator may be appointed arbitrator under this section.

Procedure when agreement finally disposes of case and in other circumstances.

[*]44. (1) When the agreement is one finally disposing of the matter, the Conciliator shall forward the same in original to the Court of the Subordinate Judge of lowest grade having jurisdiction in the place where the agriculturist who is a party thereto resides, and

[a] This section was substituted for the original section 44 by Act VI of 1895, s. 12.

(Chapter VI.—Of Conciliation.—Section 44.)

and shall at the same time deliver to each of the parties a written notice to show cause before such Judge, within one month from the date of such delivery, why such agreement ought not to be filed in such Court.

(2) The Court which receives the agreement shall in all cases scrutinise the same, and if it thinks that the agreement is a legal and equitable one finally disposing of the matter, and that it has not been made in fraud of the stamp or registration laws, it shall, after the expiry of the said period of one month, unless cause has been shown as aforesaid, order such agreement to be filed; and it shall then take effect as if it were a decree of the said Court passed on the day on which it is ordered to be filed and from which no appeal lies.

(3) If the said Court thinks that the agreement is not a legal or equitable one, or that it does not finally dispose of the matter, or that it has been made in fraud of the stamp or registration laws, it shall of its own motion issue process for the attendance of the parties, and if after such inquiry as may be deemed necessary the Court finds that such agreement is a legal and equitable one finally disposing of the matter, and that it has not been made in fraud of the stamp or registration laws, it shall order such agreement to be filed; and it shall then take effect as if it were a decree of the said Court passed on the day on which it is ordered to be filed, and from which no appeal lies.

(4) If, on the other hand, the said Court finds that the agreement does not constitute a legal or equitable agreement, or that it does not finally dispose of the matter, or that it has been made in fraud of the stamp or registration laws, it shall return the said agreement to the Conciliator, and such Conciliator shall thereupon be bound to furnish on demand to the parties or any one of them a certificate under section 46.

(5) The

(Chapter VI.—Of Conciliation.—Sections 45-47.)

(5) The Court may in any case, for reasons to be recorded by it in writing, from time to time extend the period of one month allowed for showing cause under this section.

Procedure where agreement is for reference to arbitration.

45. When the agreement is one for referring the matter to arbitration, the Conciliator shall forward it to the Court having jurisdiction in the matter, and such Court shall cause it to be filed and proceed thereon in manner provided by sections 523 and 524 of the Code of Civil Procedure.[^a]

Certificate to be given to applicant if conciliation fail.

46. If the person against whom any application is made before a Conciliator cannot after reasonable search be found, or if he refuses or neglects, after a reasonable period has been allowed for his appearance, to appear before the Conciliator, or if he appears but the endeavour to induce the parties to agree to an amicable settlement or to submit the matter in question to arbitration fails, the Conciliator shall, on demand, give to the applicant, or when there are several applicants to each applicant, a certificate under his hand to that effect.

Suit, or application for execution not to be entertained by Civil Court unless such certificate is produced.

47. No suit, and no application for execution of a decree passed before the date on which this Act comes into force, to which any agriculturist residing within any local area for which a Conciliator has been appointed is a party, shall be entertained by any Civil Court unless the plaintiff produces [^b] a certificate in reference thereto obtained by him under section 46 within the year immediately preceding.[^b]

[^c]*Explanation.*—The expression “Civil Court” in this section does not include a Mámlatdár’s Court under Bombay Act No. III of 1876(^d) (*to consolidate and amend the law relating to the powers and procedure of Mámlatdárs’ Courts*).

[^a]48. In

^a] This reference to the Code of Civil Procedure should now be read as applying to the Code of 1908, V of 1908.

[^{b-b}] These words were substituted for the original words by Act XXII of 1882, s. 13.

[^c] This *Explanation* was added by Act XXIII of 1881, s. 9.

[^d] This reference to Bombay Act No. III of 1876 should now be read as applying to Bombay Act No. II of 1906

(Chapter VI.—Of Conciliation.—Sections 48-49.
Chapter VII.—Superintendence and Revision.—
Sections 50-51.)

[*]48. In computing the period of limitation pre-
scribed for any such suit or application the time
intervening between the application made by the
plaintiff under section 39 and the grant of the
certificate under section 46 shall be excluded^[b]

Allowance
to be made
in period of
limitation.

48A.—(Repealed) * * * * [c].

49. The Local Government may from time to
time make rules—

Local
Government
to make
rules.

- (a) regulating the procedure before Conciliators
in matters not provided for by this Act ;
- (b) fixing the charges to be made by Concilia-
tors for anything done by them under this
chapter ; and
- (c) determining what record and accounts shall
be kept by Conciliators and what returns
shall be framed and furnished by them.

CHAPTER VII.

SUPERINTENDENCE AND REVISION.

50. The District Judge shall inspect, supervise
and control the proceedings, under ^[d] Chapter II,
Chapter IV and Chapter VI ^[d] of this Act, of all
Subordinate Judges and the proceedings of all
Village-munsifs and Conciliators.

District
Judge to
inspect, etc.

^[e]51. The District Judge may—

- (a) transfer any application pending before a
Conciliator to the file of any other Con-
ciliator ;

District
Judge may
withdraw
case from
Conciliator
or Subordi-
nate Judge.

^[b]transfer

[a] This section was substituted for the original s. 48 by Act XXIII of 1881, s. 10.

[b] {The second paragraph, repealed by Act XII of 1891, is omitted.

[c] Section 48-A which was inserted by Bombay Act 1 of 1910, Serial No. 2 of the First Schedule was repealed by Bombay Act I of 1912, s. 3.

[d-d] These references were substituted for the original reference by Act XXII of 1882, s. 14.

[e] This section was substituted for the original s. 51 by Act XXIII of 1881, s. 11.

(Chapter VII.—*Superintendence and Revision.*—
Sections 51-52.)

(b) [^a]transfer from the Court of one Subordinate Judge to another any suit or any agreement pending before a Subordinate Judge under section 44 of this Act; or [^a] transfer to his own file any suit or other matter pending before the Court of any Subordinate Judge under [^b]Chapter II, Chapter IV or Chapter VI [^b] of this Act, and may dispose of the same as if he were a Subordinate Judge; or

or sit with Subordinate Judge as a Bench for trial of any case.

(c) stay the proceedings in any such suit or matter, and sit together with such Judge as a Bench to dispose of such suit or matter in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

If the members of any Bench sitting under this section differ in opinion, the opinion of the District Judge shall prevail.

Appointment of Assistant or Subordinate Judges to aid District Judge.

[^c]52. (1) The Local Government may appoint an Assistant or Subordinate Judge to inspect and supervise, subject to the control of the District Judge, the proceedings of all Subordinate Judges under Chapter II, Chapter IV and Chapter VI of this Act, and of all Village-munsifs and Conciliators in any district or part of a district to which this Act applies :

Provided that, if the Local Government thinks fit, the same Assistant or Subordinate Judge may be so appointed for two or more such districts or parts of districts or districts and parts of districts.

(2) The District Judge may, by order, confer upon any Assistant or Subordinate Judge appointed under this section, as regards any district or part of a district for which he is so appointed, all or any of the powers specified in the order which vest in the District Judge under section 51.

53. The

[^{a-a}] These words were added by Act VI of 1895, s. 13.

[^{b-b}] These references were substituted for the original references by Act XXII of 1882, s. 14.

[^c] This section was substituted for the original s. 52 by Act VI of 1895, s. 14.

(Chapter VII.—*Superintendence and Revision.*—
Sections 53-54.)

53. The District Judge may, for the purpose of ^{Of revision.} satisfying himself of the legality or propriety of any decree or order passed by a Subordinate Judge in any suit or other matter under [a] Chapter II, Chapter IV or Chapter VI [a] of this Act, and as to the regularity of the proceedings therein, call for and examine the record of such suit or matter, and pass such decree or order thereon as he thinks fit;

and any Assistant Judge or Subordinate Judge appointed by the Local Government under section 52 may similarly, in any district for which he is appointed, call for and examine the record of any such suit or matter, and, if he see cause therefor, may refer the same, with his remarks thereon, to the District Judge, and the District Judge may pass such decree or order on the case as he thinks fit:

Provided that no decree or order shall be reversed or altered for any error or defect or otherwise, unless a failure of justice appears to have taken place.

54. The Local Government from time to time ^{Special Judge.} may, and if the Government of India so direct shall, appoint an officer, as Special Judge, to discharge in the place of the District Judge all the functions of the District Judge under this Act in respect of the proceedings of all Subordinate Judges, Village-munsifs and Conciliators, and may cancel any such appointment.

Such Special Judge shall not, without the previous sanction of the Government of India, discharge any public function except those which he is empowered by this Act to discharge.

If any conflict of authority arises between the Special Judge and the District Judge, the High Court shall pass such order thereon consistent with this Act as it thinks fit.

• No

[a-a] These references were substituted for the original references by Act XXII of 1882, s. 14.

(Chapter VIII.—Registration by Village-Registrars.—Section 55.)

No appeal shall lie from any decree or order passed by the District Judge under this chapter, or by the Special Judge, or by an Assistant or Subordinate Judge appointed under section 52, or by a Bench, in any suit or proceeding under this Act.

[^a]But the District Judge or Special Judge, or an Assistant or Subordinate Judge or Bench, may refer to the High Court, under section 617 of the Code of Civil Procedure,^[^b] any question of law, or usage having the force of law, or the construction of a document, arising in any case pending before him or it under this chapter as if that case were a suit or an appeal pending before him or it; and, in respect of every reference so made, sections 618 to 621 of the said Code, both inclusive, shall apply.

[^a]Provided that no reference shall be made under this section by any Assistant or Subordinate Judge, or by any Bench of which the District Judge or Special Judge is not a member, without the previous sanction of the District Judge or Special Judge, as the case may be.

CHAPTER VIII.

REGISTRATION BY VILLAGE-REGISTRARS.

Appointment
of Village
Registrars.

55. The Local Government may, from time to time,—

- (a) appoint such persons as it thinks fit, whether public officers or not, to be Village-registrars for such local areas as it may, from time to time, prescribe;
- (b) direct the Village-registrar for any local area to discharge the functions of a Village-registrar for any other local areas concurrently with the Village-registrars of such other local areas; and
- (c) delegate

[^a] These paras. were added by Act XXII of 1882, s. 15.

[^b] This reference to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1882, should now be read as applying to the Code of 1908, V of 1908.

(Chapter VIII.—Registration by Village-Registrars.—Sections 56-57.)

(c) delegate to any person, by name or in virtue of his office, the powers conferred on it by this section ;

and may cancel any such appointment, direction or delegation.

56. No instrument which purports to create, modify, transfer, evidence or extinguish an obligation for the payment of money or a charge upon any property, or to be a conveyance or lease, and which is executed after this Act comes into force by an agriculturist residing in any local area for which a Village-registrar has been appointed, shall be admitted in evidence for any purpose by any person having by law or consent of parties authority to receive evidence, or shall be acted upon by any such person or by any public officer, unless such instrument is written by, or under the superintendence of, and is attested by, a Village-registrar :

Instruments executed by agriculturist not to be deemed valid unless executed before a Village-registrar.

Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the admission of any instrument in evidence in any criminal proceeding, [a] or apply to any instrument which is executed by an agriculturist merely as a surety [a] [b] or to any instrument required by section 17 of the Indian Registration Act, 1877, to be registered under that Act [b].

III
of
1877.

[c] 57. When any persons intend to execute any instrument to which section 56 applies, all such persons shall appear before the Village-registrar appointed for the area in which the agriculturist, or, when there are several agriculturists intending to execute the instrument, any one of such agriculturists, resides, and such Registrar, after satisfying himself in such manner as he deems fit as to the identity of the intending executants and receiving the fee (if any) prescribed by the Local Government in

Such instruments to be written by, or under the superintendence of, a Village-registrar and executed in his presence.

[a-a] These words were added by Act XXIII of 1881, s. 12.

[b-b] This portion was added by Act XXIII of 1886, s. 9. The reference to the Indian Registration Act, 1877, should now be read as applying to the Indian Registration Act, 1908 (XVI of 1908).

[c] This section was substituted for the original s. 57 by Act XXIII of 1881, s. 13.

(Chapter VIII.—Registration by Village-Registrars.—Section 58.)

in this behalf, and the stamp (if any) which may be required by law, shall write the instrument, or cause the same to be written under his superintendence; and, after reading the same aloud, or causing it to be so read, in the hearing of the intending executants, shall require them to execute it in his presence.

Attestation
of such in-
struments.

Every instrument so written and executed shall at the time of execution be attested by the Village-registrar, and also, if any of the executants thereof is unable to read such instrument, by two respectable witnesses.

For the purposes of this section every executant of any such instrument shall appear in person before the Village-registrar; but every other party thereto may appear either in person or by any agent, being his relative, servant or dependant, whom he has duly furnished with a power-of-attorney, [a]executed and authenticated in such manner as the Local Government may, from time to time, by rule prescribe, [a] authorising him to appear and act on his behalf.

Registration
of instru-
ments by
Village-
registrars

58. Every Village-registrar shall keep a register of instruments executed before him in such form as shall, from time to time, be prescribed by the Inspector-General of Registration.

As soon as all the [b]intending executants have executed any instrument [b] before a Village-registrar, he shall make a copy of it or cause a copy of it to be made in his register, and shall deliver the original instrument to the party entitled to the custody of the same [c]

Previous to delivery, the original instrument [c] shall be endorsed under the Village-registrar's signature, with the date of registration, the name
and

[a-a] These words were inserted by Act XXII of 1882, s. 16.

[b-b] These words were substituted for the original words by Act XXIII of 1881, s. 14.

[c] Words repealed by Act XXIII of 1886, s. 10 (1) and (2), are omitted.

(Chapter VIII.—Registration by Village-Registrars.—Section 59.)

and residence of the Village-registrar, and the volume and page of the register in which the instrument has been registered.

[^a] A certified copy of any entry in the register shall be granted by the Village-registrar, free of charge, on the application of any party to the instrument to which the entry relates, or of his agent or representative, and the copy shall be admissible as evidence of the contents of the instrument.

59. In every instrument written by, or under the superintendence of, the Village-registrar, the amount and nature of the consideration, if any, shall be fully stated.

Consideration to be fully stated in every instrument executed before a Village-registrar.

The Village-registrar shall also endorse upon the instrument a note under his hand, recording whether or not the transfer of the consideration stated therein, or of any part thereof, took place in his presence.

If the instrument modifies, or wholly or partly supersedes, a previous instrument, such previous instrument shall be produced before the Village-registrar and shall be fully described in the instrument to be executed, and shall be marked by the Village-registrar under his hand for identification.

Previous instruments to be produced.

[^b] Provided that if it is alleged that any such previous instrument is on the record or otherwise in the custody of a Court, or is lost, or has been destroyed, the Village-registrar, after ascertaining that such previous instrument was duly registered, may permit a certified copy thereof to be produced in lieu of the original; and in every such case the following procedure shall be observed, that is to say :

Production of copy of previous instrument when to be permitted.

(a) the contents of the certified copy shall be fully described in the modifying or super-

[] This para. was added by Act XIII of 1886, s. 10 (3).

[^b] This proviso was added by Bom. Act I of 1902, s. 3.

(Chapter VIII.—Registration by Village-Registrars.—Sections 60-61.)

sealing instrument, and the said copy shall be marked by the Village-registrar under his hand for identification, and shall then be delivered to the person who produced it ;

(b) if the previous instrument is lost, or has been destroyed, and the registered entry thereof is in his custody, the Village-registrar shall endorse on such entry a note under his hand as to the modification or supersession of the said instrument ;

(c) if the previous instrument is in the custody of a Court, or if it is lost, or has been destroyed, and the registered entry thereof is in the custody of another officer, the Village-registrar shall forward a certified copy of the entry in his register relating to the modifying or superseding instrument to such Court or officer, with a report explaining the circumstances, and such Court or officer shall on receipt thereof endorse on such previous instrument or registered entry a note as to the modification or supersession of the said instrument.

Registration under this Act to be deemed equivalent to registration under Indian Registration Act, 1877.

60. Every instrument executed and registered in accordance with the foregoing provisions shall be deemed to have been duly registered under the provisions of the Indian Registration Act, 1877^[a]; and ^{III} no instrument which ought to have been executed ^{of} 1877. before a Village-registrar but has been otherwise executed shall be registered by any officer acting under the said Act, or in any public office, or shall be authenticated by any public officer.

Superintendence of Village-registrars and custody and destruction of their records.

^[b]**61.** (1) The Local Government may appoint one or more officers to exercise by themselves or their subordinates a general superintendence over all Village-registrars, and may either make rules, or empower

[a] This reference to Act II of 1877 should now be read as applying to Act XVI of 1908.

[b] This section was substituted for the original s. 61 by Act VI of 1895, s. 15.

(Chapter VIII.—Registration by Village-Registrars.—Sections 62-63. Chapter VIIIA.—Registration of Instruments referred to in section 17 of the Indian Registration Act, 1877.—Section 63A).

empower such officer or officers to make rules, from time to time consistent with this Act for regulating the proceedings of the Village-registrars and for providing for the custody of their records.

(2). The Local Government may, by order to be published in the Government Gazette, declare that any documents other than wills remaining unclaimed in any registration office in any district or part of a district to which this Act applies, for a period exceeding two years, may be destroyed.

62. Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to require any instrument, to which the Government or any officer of Government, in his official capacity is a party, to be executed before a Village-registrar.^[a]

Exemption of instruments to which Government or any officer of Government is a party.

63. The Local Government may, from time to time, make rules regulating the appointment, suspension, dismissal and remuneration of Village-registrars, and prescribing the fees to be levied by them.

Power of Local Government to make rules.

[^b]CHAPTER VIIIA.

REGISTRATION OF INSTRUMENTS REFERRED TO IN SECTION 17 OF THE INDIAN REGISTRATION ACT, 1877.

III of 1877. 63A. (1) When an agriculturist intends to execute any instrument required by section 17 of the Indian Registration Act, 1877, [^c] to be registered under that Act, he shall appear before the Sub-registrar

Mode of execution by agriculturists of instruments required to be registered under Act III of 1877.

[a] The words "or any Society registered under the Co-operative Credit Societies Act, 1904," which were inserted after the word "capacity" by Bombay Act I of 1910, Serial No. 3 of the First Schedule, have been repealed by Act I of 1912, s. 3.

[b] Chap. VIIIA was inserted by Act XXIII of 1886, s. 11.

[c] This reference to Act III of 1877 should now be read as applying to Act XVI of 1908.

(Chapter IX.—Of Receipts and Statements of Account.—Sections 64-65.)

registrar within whose sub-district the whole or some portion of the property to which the instrument is to relate is situate, and the Sub-registrar shall write the instrument, or cause it to be written, and require it to be executed, and attest it and, if the executant is unable to read the instrument, cause it to be further attested, and otherwise act in accordance with the procedure prescribed for a Village-registrar by sections 57 and 59 of this Act, and shall then register the instrument in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Registration Act, 1877. [a]

(2) An instrument to which sub-section (1) applies shall not be effectual for any purpose referred to in section 49 of the Act last-mentioned unless it has been written, executed and attested in the manner provided in that sub-section. [b]

CHAPTER IX.

OF RECEIPTS AND STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNT.

Agriculturists entitled to written receipts;

64. The person to whom any agriculturist makes any payment of money in liquidation of a debt shall, at the time of such payment, tender to such agriculturist, whether he demand the same or not, a written receipt for the amount of such payment.

If such payment is made under any instrument executed before a Village-registrar, the receipt shall, if the agriculturist so require, be endorsed on the copy of the instrument furnished to him under section 58.

to annual statements of account;

65. Any agriculturist by whom any money is due under any instrument shall, on such date in each year

[a] This reference to Act III of 1877 should now be read as applying to Act XVI of 1908.

[b] The words "Sub-section (1) shall not apply to any instrument to which any society registered under the Co-operative Credit Societies Act, 1904, is a party" which were inserted by Bombay Act I of 1910, Serial No. 4, of the First Schedule, have been repealed by Act I of 1912, s. 3.

(Chapter IX.—Of Receipts and Statements of Account.—Sections 66-67. Chapter X.—Legal Practitioners.—Section 68.)

year as the Local Government, having regard to local custom, may from time to time, by notification in the official Gazette, fix, be entitled to receive, on demand, from the person claiming under such instrument, a statement up to that date of his account under such instrument.

66. Any agriculturist in whose name an account is kept by any trader or money-lender shall be entitled to receive from such trader or money-lender, on demand, a pass-book; and to require, from time to time, that his account up to date be written therein and authenticated by the signature or mark of the said trader or money-lender.

to have account made up from time to time in a pass-book.

An entry so made in any such pass-book of any payment made to the trader or money-lender shall be deemed to be equivalent, for the purposes of section 64, to the grant of a receipt for the amount so entered.

No person whose account has been written in a pass-book as required by this section shall be entitled also to demand an account under section 65.

67. Any person who, in contravention of section 64, 65 or 66, refuses or neglects to tender a receipt or a statement of account or a pass-book, or to write, or cause to be written, any account or any part of an account in a pass-book, or to attest the same when so written, shall be punished for each such offence with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees.

Penalty for contravention of sections 64 to 66.

CHAPTER X.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS.

[^a]68. No pleader, vakil or mukhtar, and no advocate or attorney of a High Court, shall be permitted

Pleaders, etc., excluded in certain cases.

[^a] This section was substituted for the original s. 68 by Act XXIII of 1881, s. 15.

(*Chapter X.—Legal Practitioners.—Sections 68-69.*
Chapter XI.—Miscellaneous.—Section 70.)

mitted to appear on behalf of any party to any case before a Conciliator or a Village-munsif : [*]

Provided that any party to any such case may be permitted, on reasonable cause being shown to the satisfaction of the Conciliator or Village-munsif, to employ any relative, servant or dependant who is not, and has not previously been, a pleader, vakil or mukhtar, or an advocate or attorney of a High Court, to appear either conjointly with, or in lieu of, such party.

When a relative, servant or dependant appears in lieu of a party, he shall be furnished by him with a power-of-attorney defining the extent to which he is empowered to act.

Power of Court to appoint pleader for agriculturist.

69. When in any suit or proceeding before a Subordinate Judge under this Act to which an agriculturist is a party, any pleader, vakil or mukhtar, or any advocate or attorney of a High Court, appears on behalf of any party opposed to such agriculturist, the Subordinate Judge, if he is of opinion that such agriculturist has not the means of obtaining proper professional assistance, may, with the consent of such agriculturist, direct the Government pleader or any other fit person (who is willing so to do) to appear on his behalf.

CHAPTER XI.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mortgages, etc., to be valid only when written.

70. No mortgage, lien or charge of or upon any immoveable property belonging to an agriculturist shall be valid unless it is created by an instrument in writing under the hand of the person creating such mortgage, lien or charge.

Nothing

[*] Words repealed by Act XXII of 1882, s. 17, are omitted.

(Chapter XI.—Miscellaneous.—Sections 71-72.)

Nothing in this section shall apply to any mortgage, lien or charge created by mere operation of law, or in favour of the Government or of any officer of the Government in his official capacity.

[^a]71. The last clause of section 258 of the Code of Civil Procedure [^b] shall not apply to payments out of Court made in any proceeding under this Act, in any case where an acknowledgment by the judgment-creditor for the same is produced, or when the payment is either admitted by him or proved.

Bar of application of section 258, Act XIV of 1882. ✓

XIV of 1882.

[^c]71A. In taking an account under section 13 or in any suit under this Act where interest is chargeable such interest shall be awarded at the following rates :

Rate of interest allowable on taking an account. ✓

(a) the rate, if any, agreed upon between the parties or the persons (if any) through whom they claim, unless such rate is deemed by the Court to be unreasonable ; or

(b) if such rate is deemed by the Court unreasonable, or if no rate was agreed upon, or when any agreement between the parties or the persons (if any) through whom they claim, to set off profits against interest and assessment and similar charges without an account has been set aside by the Court, such rate as the Court may deem reasonable.

[^d]72. In any suit [^e] of the description mentioned in section 3, clause (w), [^f] for the recovery of money from a person [^g] who at the time when the cause of action arose was an agriculturist [^h] in any of the districts of Poona, Sâtára, Sholápur and Ahmednagar, [ⁱ] the following periods of limitation shall be

Limitation.

[^a] This s. 71 was inserted by Act VI of 1895, s. 16.

[^b] This reference to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1882, should now be read as applying to the Code of 1908, V of 1908.

[^c] S. 71A was inserted by Act VI of 1895, s. 17.

[^d] This section was substituted for the original s. 72 by Act XXIII of 1881, s. 17.

[^{e-e}] This reference was substituted for the original reference by Act XXIII of 1886, s. 12 (1).

[^{f-f}] Words repealed by Act XXIII of 1886, s. 12 (2), are omitted.

[^{g-g}] These words were added by Act VI of 1895, s. 18.

(Chapter XI.—Miscellaneous.—Sections 72-73A.)

be deemed to be substituted for those prescribed in the second column of the second schedule annexed to the Indian Limitation Act, 1877 [a] (that is to say) :—

(a) when such suit is founded on a written instrument registered under this Act or any law in force at the date of the execution of such instrument,—twelve years ;

(b) in any other case,—six years :

[b] Provided that nothing in this section shall—

(i) apply to a suit for the recovery of money from a person who is a surety merely of the principal debtor if the principal debtor was not, at the time when the cause of action arose, an agriculturist [c] in any of the districts aforesaid, [c] or

(ii) revive the right to bring any suit which would have been barred by limitation if it had been instituted immediately before this Act comes into force.

72. [Decision as to whether person is an agriculturist, final.] Repealed by Act VI of 1895, s. 3.

Certain agricultural produce exempted from attachment, etc.

[d] 73A. When the Collector has taken any immoveable property of a judgment-debtor or insolvent into his possession under section 22 or section 29, he may, by an order in writing, direct that any other such property not so taken shall be deemed to be reserved for the support of the judgment-debtor or insolvent and the members of his family dependent on him, and may rescind that order.

While any such order continues in force in respect of any immoveable property, agricultural produce grown on that property shall not be attached or sold in execution of a decree passed whether before or after

[a] This reference to Act of XV 1877 should now be read as applying to Act IX of 1908.

[b] This proviso was substituted for the original proviso by Act XXIII of 1886, s. 12 (3).

[c-c] These words were added by Act VI of 1895, s. 18.

[d] S. 73A was inserted by Act X II of 1882, s. 18.

(Chapter XI.—Miscellaneous.—Sections 74-76.)

after this Act comes into force, and shall not vest in the receiver appointed in any insolvency-proceedings.

74. Except in so far as it is inconsistent with this Act, the Code of Civil Procedure^[a] shall apply in all suits and proceedings before Subordinate Judges under this Act. Civil Procedure Code to apply in Subordinate Judges' Courts.

^{X of 1901.} **[b] 74A.** Except section 2 and section 21, the provisions of this Act shall not apply to any matter to or in which any society registered under the Co-operative Credit Societies Act, 1904,^[c] is a party. Co-operative Credit Societies.

75. The Local Government may, from time to time, make all such rules as it may deem necessary for carrying out the provisions herein contained. Additional power to make rules.

76. All rules made by the Local Government under this Act shall be published in the official Gazette, and shall thereupon, in so far as they are consistent with this Act, have the force of law. Rules to be published.

[a] This reference to the Code of Civil Procedure should now be read as applying to the Code of 1908, V of 1908.

[b] Section 74A was inserted by Bombay Act I of 1912, s. I.

[c] This reference to Act X of 1904 should now be read as applying to Act II of 1912.