

7. The several sentences pronounced by Military Courts upon persons tried by such Courts for any crimes or offences whatsoever, or for any contraventions of any order or regulation expressed or purporting to be issued under Martial Law are hereby confirmed; and all such persons confined in any prison by virtue of such sentences shall be deemed to have been and to be legally confined there, and shall continue liable to be so confined there or elsewhere, as the High Commissioner may direct, until the expiration of the sentences respectively passed upon them, or until their discharge by lawful authority, and such sentences shall be deemed to be sentences duly passed by duly and legally constituted Courts of Cyprus and shall be carried out, or otherwise dealt with, in the same manner, and sentences of such Military Courts shall be followed by the same disabilities, if any, as sentences of the Courts of Cyprus.

Confirmation of sentences.

INFANTS ESTATES ADMINISTRATION.

7 OF 1894.⁽¹⁾

TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATES OF DECEASED OTTOMAN SUBJECTS WHO HAVE DIED LEAVING HEIRS WHO ARE INFANTS OR MENTALLY INCAPACITATED FROM MANAGING THEIR AFFAIRS OR ABSENT FROM CYPRUS.

WALTER J. SENDALL.]

[May 2, 1894.]

1. In this Law, the following expressions have the following Definitions meanings:—

“ Heir ” means every person having any interest by inheritance or succession in the property of a deceased person;

“ Heir under disability ” means every heir who has not completed the age of eighteen years, or is lunatic, idiot, imbecile, or otherwise mentally incapacitated from the management of his affairs: Provided that a married woman shall not be deemed to be under disability because she has not attained the age of eighteen years;

“ Movable property ” includes crops;

“ Crops ” means any cereals, fruit, vegetables or the produce of any carob, olive or fruit tree or vine;

2. Whenever any non-Moslem subject of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey, resident in Cyprus, dies, it shall be the duty of the Priest who performs the burial service over the deceased to report the fact of the death to the Mukhtar of the village or quarter.

Report of death to be made to Mukhtar.

⁽¹⁾ See the Statute Laws Application Law, 2 of 1915, p. 872.

Duties of
Mukhtar.

3. The Mukhtar of the village or quarter shall forthwith make all reasonable inquiries to ascertain who are the heirs of the deceased person; and if it shall appear that any of such heirs are under disability, or absent from Cyprus, the Mukhtar shall proceed to ascertain what movable property the deceased died possessed of, and shall forthwith forward to the Registrar of the District Court of the District within which the deceased resided, a report containing an announcement of the death of the deceased, the date of his death, the names of the heirs specifying which of them are under disability or absent from Cyprus, the names of some of the nearest relatives of the deceased, and a list of the movable property left by him, stating approximately the value of the property.

Provided that if it clearly appears to the Mukhtar that the value of the movable property left by the deceased does not exceed the sum of twenty pounds it shall not be necessary for him to make any report.

Inquiry as to
moneys owing
to deceased.

4. The Mukhtar shall make inquiries of the heirs or near relatives of the deceased as to whether any moneys are owing to the deceased, and shall include a statement of the moneys so owing, if any, in the list of property, specifying the amount of the moneys and the persons from whom they are owing.

Clothing of
spouse and
child not part
of estate.

5. The bedding or clothing of any surviving spouse or of any child of any deceased person shall not be deemed to form part of the estate of the deceased; and the Mukhtar, in drawing up a list of the movable property of the deceased, shall not include any such clothing therein.

Mukhtar to
take pos-
session of
valuables.

6. Where the Mukhtar finds amongst the property of a deceased person who has died leaving heirs under disability or absent from Cyprus, any money, securities for money, or jewellery, which or the value of which, together with the value of the other movable property of the deceased, shall exceed the sum of twenty pounds, he shall take possession of the same, giving a receipt therefor to any of the heirs or any near relative of the deceased, and shall bring or forward the property of which he has so taken possession, securely fastened up and sealed, to the Registrar of the District Court, and the Registrar shall give a receipt therefor to the Mukhtar or other person bringing the property to him.

Mukhtar's
fee.

7. Every Mukhtar bringing or forwarding any report to the Registrar of a District Court shall be entitled to receive out of the estate of the deceased a fee of five shillings.⁽¹⁾ Such fee shall be deemed to be a first charge upon the estate of the deceased, and, unless the heirs of the deceased shall pay to the Mukhtar the amount thereof, the

(1) See p. 925, *infra*.

Court may direct that so much of the movable property of the deceased as shall be sufficient to satisfy the claim of the Mukhtar in respect of the said fee be sold, and the proceeds thereof applied in payment of the fee; Provided that if it appears to the Court that the Mukhtar has wilfully overestimated the value of the property, the Court may direct that he shall not receive any fee.

8. The Registrar of the District Court on receiving such report shall forthwith bring it to the notice of the Court; and if it appears to the Court to be probable that the value of the movable property left by the deceased (including moneys owing to the deceased) does not exceed the sum of twenty pounds, no further proceedings need be taken by the Court upon the report of its own motion, except such as may be necessary to secure the payment of the Mukhtar's fee.

No administration necessary unless value of property exceeds twenty pounds.

9. The Court may in any case on an application made by or on behalf of any heir of a deceased non-Moslem subject of his Imperial Majesty the Sultan, who has died leaving heirs under disability, if it shall think fit, direct that the estate of the deceased be administered under the provisions of this Law, even though the value of the movable property left by the deceased (including therein the amount of moneys owing to the deceased) does not exceed twenty pounds.

Administration on application of heirs.

10. If it appears to the Court to be probable that the value of the movable property left by the deceased (including moneys due to the deceased) exceeds the sum of twenty pounds, or if on application made for that purpose the Court has directed the estate of a deceased person to be administered under the provisions of this Law, the Court shall summon some one or more of the heirs of the deceased or of his nearest relatives to appear before the Court on a day to be fixed for that purpose.

Heir or relative to be summoned by Court.

11. On the appearance of the person or persons so summoned, the Court shall proceed to inquire as to the correctness of the list of property made by the Mukhtar and of the estimated value thereof, and as to the debts owing by and due to the deceased, and the amount of the funeral expenses, and as to whether any and which of the relatives of the deceased or what other person is willing to act as guardian of the heir or heirs under disability, and as to the last known place of abode of any absent heir.

Proceedings on appearance of heir or relative.

The Court may direct that any evidence as to the value of any of the movable property mentioned in the list that it may think requisite or desirable be furnished, and for that purpose may adjourn the inquiry from time to time.

Estimated value of property when to be deemed conclusive.

12. If in the course of such inquiry it appears to the Court to be satisfactorily established that the list of the movable property made by the Mukhtar and the estimated values thereof are substantially correct, or where the Court, after hearing any evidence it may have directed to be produced, has settled the values of the movable property, such estimated values or the values settled by the Court shall be deemed to be conclusive for the purpose of the division of the property amongst the heirs hereinafter mentioned.

No administration necessary where value of property does not exceed twenty pounds.

13. If it appears on inquiry that the value of the movable property left by the deceased, including the amount of any debts due to him, does not exceed twenty pounds, the Court may, unless it sees good reason to the contrary, decline to proceed with the administration of the deceased's estate, but may, if necessary, direct that so much of the movable property left by the deceased as may be necessary to satisfy the Mukhtar's fee be sold and the amount of the fee paid to the Mukhtar.

Appointment of guardian.

14.—(1.) The Court may at any time, on application made for that purpose, appoint any fit and proper person who is willing to act as guardian of any heir under disability.⁽¹⁾

(2.) If no fit and proper person is willing to act as the guardian of any heir under disability, the Court may appoint any person to represent such heir on any division of the property to a share of which the heir under disability is entitled, and may direct that any expenses incurred by any person so appointed shall be a charge upon the share of the property of such heir.

(3.) The Court may, in its discretion, at any time revoke any appointment of a guardian, upon application made for that purpose.

Duties of guardian.

15. The duties of a guardian shall be to see to the maintenance of the person or persons of whom he is guardian, and to the education and advancement of such of them as are infants; to receive, manage, protect and preserve his or their property, movable or immovable, and to receive and apply the income arising therefrom in accordance with the directions given to him by the Court by which the property was entrusted to him.

Property may be handed to guardian or sold.

16. The Court may direct that any movable property falling to the share of any heir under disability be handed over to the guardian of such heir, to be applied by him for the maintenance, education or advancement of the heir or otherwise, or, if it appears to the Court that it will be beneficial to the heir that the whole or any portion of such movable property be sold, the Court may order the same to be

⁽¹⁾ See The Official Trustees Law, 1912, s. 5 (a) p. 649, *infra*, as to appointment of Official Trustee as guardian.

sold, and the proceeds of the sale paid into Court, and shall direct that so much thereof as shall represent the prescribed fee be carried over in the books of the Treasury to the account of public revenue, and the balance thereof to the account of the estate of the deceased or to the account of the person under disability, as the case may be.

17. The Court may require any such guardian to give security to the satisfaction of the Court that he will apply or dispose of any such property in accordance with the directions of the Court, and that he will furnish an account of his dealings with it to the Court, either at times to be fixed by the Court or when called upon so to do.

Guardian
to furnish
security.

18. Before the movable property forming the share of any person under disability is handed to the guardian, the Court shall require the guardian to pay into Court the amount of the fee prescribed to be taken under the provisions of section 58 hereof; and if the guardian does not pay it, the Court shall direct that so much of the movable property forming the share of such person as shall be sufficient to satisfy the amount of the fee be sold, and the amount of the fee paid into Court.

Payment
of fee.

19. The guardian shall be entitled to reimburse himself from any moneys or property of a person under disability entrusted to him the expenses of preparing or stamping any security bond given by him and the amount of the fee prescribed to be taken under the provisions of section 58 hereof, which shall have been paid into Court by the guardian.

Guardian
entitled to
reimburse
himself the
amount of
fee, etc.

20. The security directed to be furnished by the guardian to whom the movable property of any person under disability is entrusted shall be in the form of a bond entered into by the guardian, with one or more surety or sureties to be approved of by the Court, and made in favour of the person under disability.

Form of
guardian's
security.

Any such bond may be enforced in an action entitled in the name of the person in whose favour it is made by any person appointed by the Court to sue thereon as next friend of the person under disability.

21. If in the course of an inquiry under the provisions of section 13 it appears that any material portion of the movable property of the deceased has been omitted from the Mukhtar's report, the Court may, if it appear necessary or desirable so to do, appoint the guardian or any person to make an inventory of the movable property of the deceased.

When inven-
tory may be
made.

Method of
making
inventory.

22. The person appointed by the Court under the last preceding section shall forthwith proceed to the place where the deceased resided, and shall, in the presence of the Mukhtar and Azas of the village or quarter, or such of them as will attend, and, if possible, in the presence of the heirs of the deceased, make an inventory of all the movable property belonging to the deceased, the existence of which he shall be able to ascertain, stating the approximate value of each item in the inventory.

Inventory to
be forwarded
to Court.

23. The person appointed by the Court to make an inventory shall forthwith, on its completion, bring or forward it to the Registrar of the Court by which he was appointed.

Any heir may, on application to the Registrar of the Court, inspect the inventory; and the values of the property therein comprised shall be deemed to be conclusive for the purposes of the division of the property, as hereinafter mentioned, unless any heir or the guardian of any heir under disability shall establish to the satisfaction of the Court that the values or any of them have been erroneously stated.

Collection of
debts.

24. The Court may appoint the guardian or any person, on such terms as to remuneration as may seem fair, to collect the debts due to the deceased, and may authorize the person so appointed to take all such proceedings as may be necessary to enforce the payment of the debts.

The Court may, where it appears necessary or desirable so to do, advance any moneys in Court, forming part of the estate of the deceased, to the person appointed to collect debts due to the deceased to defray the expenses of any legal proceedings instituted to enforce the payment of the debts.

Harvesting,
etc., of crops.

25. Where any part of the movable property consists of crops, the Court may appoint the guardian or any person to harvest, pick, and store the same on such terms as to remuneration as shall seem fair to the Court.

Where the person so appointed is one of the heirs of the deceased, the Court may direct that he shall be entitled to claim from the other heirs their share of the expenses of harvesting and picking the crops.

Power to sell.

26. The Court may, where it shall seem necessary or desirable so to do, at any stage of the proceedings, order the whole or any part of the movable property of the deceased to be sold, and the proceeds of sale to be paid into Court.

Interested
parties to be
summoned by
Court.

27. After the Court has ascertained the value of the movable property left by the deceased, as stated in the Mukhtar's list or in any inventory directed by the Court to be made as hereinbefore

provided, the Court shall fix a day for the appearance before it of all persons interested in the estate of the deceased or having claims against it, and may direct by whom, to what persons, and in what way notice of the day so fixed shall be given.

The notice to persons having claims against the estate of the deceased may be given where practicable by advertisement in any newspaper published in Cyprus, and by a written notice posted at the Court house.

28. On the appearance of all interested persons, or such of them as attend in obedience to the notice, the Court may make all such orders as may be necessary for the sale of so much of the movable property as shall be sufficient to provide for the payment of the funeral expenses of the deceased, of the Mukhtar's fee, of the expenses of making an inventory (if any), of harvesting and picking and storing any crops, and of inserting any advertisement in any newspaper, and of such of the debts of the deceased as may be ascertained and admitted, and for declaring the rights of the several heirs to the surplus of the movable property; but the Court may, before making any such order or orders, on the application of any heir or of any guardian of any heir under disability, adjourn all further proceedings in the administration to a time to be fixed by the Court, in order to enable the heir or guardian to arrange with the creditors of the deceased or any of them for the payment of their debts.

Proceedings
on appear-
ance of
interested
parties.

29. On the day to which the further proceedings were adjourned by the Court, if it appears that no arrangement has been made with the creditors of the deceased, the Court may proceed to make all necessary orders as in the last preceding section mentioned.

Proceedings
on adjourn-
ment.

30. The Court may at any time direct that any person whose presence it may deem necessary or desirable, at any stage of the proceedings, be summoned to attend before the Court.

Power of
Court to
summon any
interested
person.

31. After provision has been made for the payment of the expenses hereinbefore mentioned, and debts of the deceased, the Court shall request the heirs of the deceased, not being under disability, and the guardian of any heir who is under disability, to agree upon a division of the balance of the movable property; and if such agreement is made, the details of it shall be stated to the Court; and if it appears to the Court that the division agreed upon is a fair and reasonable one, it shall confirm it.

Division by
agreement.

32. If no division of the movable property has been agreed upon, the Court may appoint any person to make a division of it amongst the persons entitled thereto upon such terms as to remuneration as

Division by
person
appointed by
Court.

may seem fair, and may direct in what way, whether by drawing lots or otherwise, the property shall be allotted amongst the heirs on the division.

Every such division shall be final, unless any heir or the guardian of any heir under disability shall apply to the Court to set aside or vary the division on the ground that it is unfair.

Proceedings to set aside unfair division.

33. Any application to the Court to set aside any division made under the last preceding section shall be made within fifteen days of the date of the division, and if it is possible so to do, shall be disposed of by the Court in a summary way; but the Court may, if it appear necessary or desirable so to do, adjourn the hearing of the application to a day to be fixed by the Court, and direct the applicant to serve notice of the application on any person affected by the division.

If the Court considers the division made to have been fair and reasonable it may direct the applicant to pay any costs of any heir, guardian, or other person to whom the Court ordered notice to be given or whose presence at the hearing of the application shall be deemed to have been reasonably necessary by the Court.

Varying or setting aside division.

34. If the Court is of opinion that the division made by the person appointed by it is not a fair division, it may direct in what manner it shall be varied so as to completely adjust the rights of the parties or may direct that a new division shall be made, and such new division, if approved by the Court, shall be considered as final.

Expenses of person making division to be provided for.

35. Before confirming any scheme of division, the Court shall be satisfied that the expenses incurred by any person appointed to make the division have been paid or provided for.

Sale where fair division impossible.

36. If it appears to the Court, from the nature of the property to be divided or otherwise, that no fair division of the property can be made, or that no adjustment of the rights of the heirs to it can be arrived at, the Court may direct that the whole or any part of the property be sold and the proceeds thereof divided amongst the heirs according to their respective rights.

Share of absent heir to be sold.

37. The Court shall direct that the movable property forming the share of any heir who is absent from Cyprus shall be sold and the proceeds thereof paid into Court.

When absent heir presumed to be dead.

38. If it is established to the satisfaction of the Court that any heir who is absent from Cyprus has not been heard of for a period of at least fifteen years prior to the date of the death of the person whose heir he is, he shall be presumed to have died prior to the death of the deceased, and the share of the property to which he would

have been entitled were he known to be living shall form part of the estate of the deceased and be divisible amongst the other heirs of the deceased: Provided that if he shall return to Cyprus the division of the share to which he was entitled in the movable property of the deceased shall be no bar to his recovering the value thereof from the heirs of the deceased.

39. The guardian of any heir under disability may, with the approval of the Court, invest any moneys representing the share of any heir of whom he is guardian, in the purchase or mortgage of any immovable property, or upon any personal security. And the Court may give such directions as to the safe custody of any documents of title or mortgage, bond, or other security, as may to the Court seem desirable. Provided always that the Court shall not authorize the advance of any moneys forming part of the estate of any heir under disability to the guardian of the heir.

Investment of moneys of heir under disability.

40. If any guardian shall do or omit to do anything in contravention of the order of the Court, or shall do any act in respect of any money or property belonging to the heir of whom he is the guardian without the authority of the Court, the Court may ratify and confirm the action or proceedings of the guardian, or, if it be shown that his action or proceedings have been injurious to the heir whose guardian he is, may order him to pay to the heir all sums of money which shall have been expended otherwise than for the benefit of the heir, and to pay all or any part of the costs and expenses which may have been incurred by reason or in consequence of anything done or omitted to be done by the guardian without the authority or contrary to the order of the Court.

Unauthorized proceedings of guardians to be confirmed or disallowed by Court.

41. Whenever any person residing in Cyprus but not being a subject of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey, has died leaving any heir under disability in Cyprus, the President of the District Court within which he resided at the time of his death may, on application by any interested person made to him for that purpose, appoint any fit and proper person to be the guardian of the heir under disability.

Power to appoint guardian for foreign subject.

42. Any guardian so appointed shall have the same duties as a guardian appointed under this Law for the heir of any deceased non-Moslem subject of the Sultan of Turkey, and shall have power, with the sanction of the President of the District Court by whom he was appointed, to concur in the sale of any immovable property belonging to the person whose guardian he is, if it appears to the President that the sale will be beneficial to the interests of the heir.

Duties of guardian of foreign subject.

Power of Court to make certain orders.

43. The Court shall have power, upon application made for the purpose, to make such of the orders hereinafter specified as it may think necessary or expedient for the interest of any heir under disability, that is to say:—

An order for the payment of any moneys in Court or the income arising from any money or property belonging to any heir under disability to the guardian, or to any other person, to be applied by the guardian or other person in accordance with the direction of the Court;

An order for the sale or mortgage of any part of the immovable or other property of the heir under disability and for the application of the proceeds of the sale or mortgage;

An order for appointing the times at which any guardian or other person shall furnish accounts of his dealings with any property or moneys belonging to the heir under disability which shall have come to his hands, or been entrusted to him, or of which he shall have had the management. Such last-mentioned order may be made by the Court either of its own motion or upon the application of any person interested.

Payment into Court.

44. Any moneys directed to be paid into Court shall be so paid in by the person directed to pay them in the manner prescribed by any Rules of Court regulating the payment of moneys into Court in civil actions, to the account of the estate of the deceased or to the account of the heir under disability to whom they belong, as the case may be.

Proceedings may be before a judge.

45. Any proceeding which by this Law may be taken before any District Court may be taken before any Judge of such Court; and any order made by a Judge shall, on the application of any person affected by it, be subject to review by the Court.

Appeal to Supreme Court.

46. An appeal may be made to the Supreme Court from any order of a District Court made under this Law, if the property affected by the order exceeds twenty pounds in value.

In cases where the value of the property affected by an order of the District Court does not exceed twenty pounds, no appeal shall be made to the Supreme Court except by leave of that Court or of the District Court by which the order was made.

Administration of estates of deceased Moslems.

47. The administration of the estates of deceased Moslems whose heirs or any of them are under disability, or absent from Cyprus, or unascertained, shall be carried out by the Mehkeme-i-Sheri, in the same manner as heretofore; provided that the inventory of the property of deceased Moslems shall be made in the presence of the Mukhtar and elders of the village or quarter within which the

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deceased resided at the date of his death or within which the property of the deceased is situate, or such of them, if any, as will attend for that purpose, and, if possible, in the presence of one or more of the relatives of the deceased.

48. Any moneys forming part of the estate of any such heir as is in the last preceding section referred to shall be paid into the Treasury, and the subsequent investment or other disposal thereof shall be effected on the order of the Court by which the moneys were directed to be paid into the Treasury.

Moneys forming part of estate of deceased Moslems to be paid into Treasury.

49. Where any non-Moslem subject of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey resident out of Cyprus dies possessed of movable property in Cyprus and leaving heirs in Cyprus who are under disability, the District Court of the District within which any movable property of the deceased is situate, shall, on proof of the death of the deceased, administer his estate in conformity with this Law.

Death of non-Moslem subject out of Cyprus leaving property in Cyprus.

50. Where there are moneys in Court belonging to the estate of a deceased person, and it is made to appear to the Court that, after the payment of the expenses of administration and of the debts of the deceased, there will be a balance of such moneys distributable amongst the heirs of the deceased, the Court may, on application by or on behalf of any such heir, at any time before the distribution of the moneys in Court, order that the whole or so much as the Court may think fit of the moneys to which the heir appears to be entitled for a present interest in possession be paid out to him on account of his share of the moneys in Court.

Power to advance moneys in Court

Formerly s. 51.

51. Where any person is entitled to a life interest in a share of the movable property left by a deceased person leaving heirs under disability, the Court shall invite him and the heirs of the deceased not being under disability and the guardian of any heir under disability to agree upon a commutation of the life interest for a present payment in cash or otherwise; and where any commutation has been so agreed upon the Court, if it considers that the terms of commutation are fair and reasonable so far as the interests of the heir or heirs under disability are concerned, may confirm it and direct that any moneys in Court be paid out to the person having the life interest, or that any portion of the movable property forming part of the estate of the deceased be handed over to him, as may have been agreed upon.

Life Interest commuted by consent.

Formerly s. 52.

Procedure where no commutation.

Formerly s. 53.

52. In case no such agreement is come to, the Court shall direct either that the share in the movable property in which such person has a life interest be sold and the proceeds thereof paid into Court, or that the movable property forming the share be handed over to him, on security being furnished to the satisfaction of the Court for the payment of the value thereof to the heirs entitled thereto on his death.

Investment of moneys representing share in which person has a life interest.

Formerly s. 54.

53. Any moneys in Court representing the share of an estate in which any person has a life interest may be invested, with the approval of the Court, upon the purchase or mortgage of immovable property in Cyprus upon an application made for that purpose by the person entitled to the life interest.

Penalty for breach of duty by Priest or Mukhtar.

Formerly s. 57.

54. Any Priest who shall wilfully and without just cause fail to report the death of any person to the Mukhtar as hereinbefore provided, and any Mukhtar who shall wilfully and without just cause fail to make and bring or forward to the Registrar of the District Court the report as hereinbefore provided, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

Penalty for obstructing Mukhtar or person making inventory.

Formerly s. 58.

55. Any person who shall wilfully obstruct or hinder any Mukhtar whilst in the execution of his duty under this Law, or any person appointed by the Court to make an inventory, or any person appointed by the Court to sell or make a division of any movable property or to harvest or pick any crop, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

Penalty on unauthorized dealings with the movable property.

Formerly s. 59.

56. Where any person shall appropriate to his own use or in any way dispose of any movable property forming part of the estate of a deceased person who has died leaving an heir or heirs under disability, except in pursuance of any division made voluntarily by the heirs of the deceased, or under the authority of an order of the Court, he shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds; provided that the heirs of a deceased person may consume such portion of the property as consists of wheat, barley or other grain, or of olives, and which shall be reasonably necessary for the food of the heirs or of the oxen, horses or other animals forming part of the estate of the deceased.

Power to make Rules of Court.

Formerly s. 60.

57. The High Commissioner, with the advice and assistance of the Chief Justice may from time to time make Rules of Court for regulating the practice and procedure of the District Courts and the Supreme Court in relation to any of the matters provided for in this Law, and the forms to be used in connection therewith.

58. Upon the division of the ~~imm~~movable property of any deceased person, whose estate is administered under this Law, there shall be taken a fee at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the value of the share of such property taken by any heir under disability; and, with the exception of the Mukhtar's fee, no other fee shall be chargeable or taken in respect of such share under the provisions of this Law.

Fee.
Formerly s. 61.

59. This Law may be cited as the Infants' Estates Administration Law, 1894.

Short title.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, *see* PUBLIC HEALTH.

INTEREST.

7 OF 1882.

TO REDUCE THE LEGAL RATE OF INTEREST.

ROBERT BIDDULPH.]

[June 6, 1882.

WHEREAS it is expedient to reduce the rate of interest recoverable by Law on debts and obligations:

Be it therefore enacted:—

1. The interest recoverable by Law on all debts and obligations shall be computed at the rate of nine per centum per annum, except when it is otherwise provided by express contract between the parties.⁽¹⁾

Legal rate of interest.

2. This Law shall not apply to debts or obligations contracted before the passing hereof,⁽²⁾ and nothing herein contained shall be deemed to give validity to any contract whereby a higher rate of interest is receivable in respect of any debt or obligation that might legally have been received if this Law had not been passed.

When applicable.

3. This Law may be cited as the Interest Law, 1882.

Short title.

⁽¹⁾ See 17 of 1919, s. 3, p. 907, *infra*.

⁽²⁾ Passed on 25th May, 1882.