

United Kingdom

Scottish L.C.: No. 47: Twelfth Annual Report 1976-77.

Scottish Home & Health Dept: Reparation by the Offender to Victim in Scotland.

Eng. Home Office: Offences of Drunkenness, 1976, England & Wales (Sept. 1977).

House of Lords: Contempt of Court: A Discussion Paper (March 1978).

Canada

Canada L.R.C.: Sixth Annual Report 1976-1977.

: W.P.21: Payment by Credit Transfer.

: Report on Criminal Procedure—Part I, Miscellaneous Amendments.

Manitoba L.R.C.: Seventh Annual Report.

: W.P. on Easements by Prescription.

: W.P. on a Simplified Mortgage Form.

✓ Saskatchewan L.R.C.: Fourth Annual Report 1977.

Uniform Law Conference of Canada: Proceedings of the Fifty-Ninth Annual Meeting (Aug. 1977)

New Zealand

Secretary of Justice: Report of the Working Party on Negotiable Instruments.

Papua New Guinea

P.N.G.L.R.C.: R.No. 6: Fairness of Transactions (Nov. 1977).

: W.P. No. 8: A Second Review of the Motor Vehicles (Third Party Insurance) (Basic Compensation) Act 1974 (Mar. 1978).

Other

California L.R.C.: Annual Report, Dec. 1977.

: Ad. Valorem Property Taxes in Eminent Domain Proceedings (Jan. 1978).

: Rec. Redemption from Executive and Foreclosure Sales of Real Property (Jan. 1978).

What's going on in the L.R.C.s?

Australian Law Reform Commission (A.L.R.C.)

- *Complaints Against Police: Supplementary Report*. Report tabled. See p. 44.
- *Privacy*. Work in Hand (W.I.H.). Three research papers circulating on
 - #1 Employment Records: Commonwealth Employment Service
 - #2 Employment Records: Australian Public Service
 - #3 Statistical Records: Census of Population and Housing.A.L.R.C. involved in international privacy inquiry. See p. 43.
- *Defamation*. Draft report and legislation under review. See p. 53.
- *Debt Recovery*. Discussion Paper #6 now circulating. See pp. 51, 59.
- *Insurance Contracts*. W.I.H. Public seminars being arranged for November 1978.

- *Access to the Courts: Locus Standi and Class Actions*. D.P.4 circulating. Issues paper on class actions due mid-1978. See p. 54.
- *Aboriginal Customary Laws*. Consultations continuing. Field visit programme has commenced. See p. 46.
- *Lands Acquisition*. Public hearings and seminars completed. See p. 49.
- *Law Reform Digest*. Work proceeding with low priority.

N.S.W. Law Reform Commission (N.S.W.L.R.C.)

- *Legal Profession Inquiry*. Discussion papers are being prepared on Professional Indemnity Insurance, Complaints and Discipline, and Overall Control of the Profession.
- *Unincorporated Associations*. W.I.H. Discussions and redrafting proceeding.
- *Money Judgments*. W.I.H. Co-operation with A.L.R.C.
- *Evidence*. A W.P. being printed on Evidence of Disposition. A number of draft W.P.s on other aspects of the law of evidence have been prepared.

N.T. Law Review Committee (N.T.L.R.C.)

The undermentioned matters are currently under consideration by the Committee:

- The recognition of Aboriginal Tribal Marriages.
- Costs in Summary Proceedings.
- Local Courts—Extension of Jurisdiction (in particular the power to grant equitable remedies).
- Powers of Attorney—their continuation where they would otherwise be suspended by the donor's mental capacity.
- Fitness to plead.
- Criminal Conversion of Goods Received in Error.
- Debtors' assistance.

N.Z. Law Reform Committees

Not available. N.Z.L.R. council meeting. See p. 55.

Papua New Guinea Law Reform Commission (P.N.G.L.R.C.)

- *Contracts: Fairness of Transactions*. Report distributed April 1978.
- *Customary Law in the Legal System*. Report with printers.
- *Annual Report 1977*. W.I.H.
- *The Judiciary*. W.P.7 (May 1978) (Assoc. Prof. Ross).
- *Motor Vehicle Compensation*. W.P.8 issued March 1978.
- *Family Law*. W.P.9 issued April 1978.
- *Criminal Investigation: Detention for Interrogation and Confessions*. W.P.11 not yet distributed.
- *Succession*. W.P.12, April 1978.
- *Judicial Selection*. Occ.P.7 (citizen judges).

Queensland Law Reform Commission (Q.L.R.C.)

- Criminal Law matters—submissions being considered.

Tasmanian Law Reform Commission (Tas.L.R.C.)

- *Uncollected and Found Goods, Disposal of*. Revised report considered by Commission and final draft for consideration at June meeting of Commission.
- *Exemption Clauses and Implied Obligations in Contracts of Sale and Services*. Authority obtained for further research by Mr. J. Livermore, Lecturer in Commercial Law, University of Tasmania.

Victorian Chief Justice's Law Reform Committee (V.C.J.C.)

- *Occupiers' Liability*. Draft Bill still awaited.
- *Wills: Construction of*. W.I.H.
- *Unincorporated Associations*. W.I.H.
- *Oaths and Affirmations*. W.I.H.
- *Insurance on Real Property*. Sub-committee report not adopted. Referred back to new sub-committee.
- *Habeas Corpus Act*. W.I.H.
- *Foreign Attachments*. W.I.H.
- *Contribution*. Sub-com. report for reconsideration following S.A.L.R.C. report.
- *Sale of Land on Deferred Terms*. Report adopted.
- *Trustee Companies*. Sub-committee appointed.
- *Wills: Mentally Ill Testators*. Sub-committee appointed.
- *Contracts: Exemption Clauses*. Sub-committee appointed.

Victorian Law Reform Commissioner (V.L.R.C.)

- *Innocent Misrepresentation in Contracts*. Report No. 7 should be issued within four weeks.
- *Criminal Law: Duress, Coercion and Necessity*. W.P.5 should be distributed in two months.
- *Pre-Incorporation Contracts*. W.P. still in the course of preparation.
- *Corporate Crimes*. Some preliminary work is being undertaken on this subject.

Victorian Statute Law Revision Committee (V.S.L.R.C.)

- *Imperial Acts Application Act*. Report presented 2 May 1978.
- *Magistrates' (Summary Proceedings) Act s.44*. (Prohibition of Publication of Committal Proceedings.) Report presented 10 May 1978.
- *Constitution Act*. Evidence being taken.
- *Privacy*. W.I.H. Interim report in Spring session possible.
- *Animals on Highways*. W.I.H. Report due late 1978.
- *Animals: Protection of*. W.I.H. Report due late 1978.
- *Adoption: Access to Information*. W.I.H. Report due late 1978.
- *Trustee Companies*. W.I.H.
- *Local Government*. Not yet proceeding actively.
- *Privacy (Debt Collection Agencies)*. W.I.H.

Western Australia Law Reform Commission (W.A.L.R.C.)

- *Minors' Contracts* (No. 25 Part II). W.P. due soon.
- *Small Debts Court* (No. 63). W.P. due soon.
- *Report on Review of the Land Agents Act* (Project No. 37)—a Bill (Real Estate & Business Agents Bill) implementing the W.A.L.R.C. recommendations as to land and business agents has been introduced into the W.A. Parliament.

New References

The following new references were received by L.R.C.s since April 1978:

N.S.W.L.R.C.: *Ethnic Groups and the Law*. General reference to take up matters raised by Ethnic Affairs Commission. The two Commissions will seek specific approval from the Attorney-General on matters to be taken up from time to time by the N.S.W.L.R.C. within the scope of this general reference.

Tas.L.R.C.: *Wills*.

: *Stock Straying on to the Highway, Liability for Damage by and to*.

: *Secondhand Dealers Act 1905*.

V.C.J.C.: *Trustee Companies*.

: *Wills*.

: *Exemption Clauses in Contracts*.

V.S.L.R.C.: *Constitution (Local Government) Bill*.

: *Privacy (Debt Collection Agencies—Publication)*.

Obituary

The Hon. Sir Samuel Cooke

The second Chairman of the Law Commission of England and Wales, Sir Samuel Cooke, has died. Born in 1912, he was educated at Cambridge where he graduated with first-class honours both in the classical tripos and in the law tripos. He was President of the Cambridge Union Society in 1934. He was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1936 and began a busy practice which took him to silk in 1960 and appointment as a judge of the High Court of Justice in 1967. He assumed office as Chairman of the Law Commission in 1973 and led it through an important time of transition. His friendly and scholarly personality made an impression on all who met him.

Mr. M. R. Penketh

The Chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee on Law Reform for the Capital Territory, Mr. M. R. Penketh, has died in Canberra aged 55. Born in Sydney and educated at Fort Street High School, he joined the then Department of the Interior in 1964. His position as Chairman of the A.C.T. Committee has been taken by Mr. A. S. Blunn.