

person to be taken, in custody or otherwise to a Court, or elsewhere in Siam, according to the writ, order, or warrant.

19. A District Court may promote reconciliation and encourage and facilitate the settlement in an amicable way of any suit or proceeding pending before it.

A District Court may, with the consent of the parties, refer to arbitration the final determination of any suit or proceeding pending before it, or of all or any matters in difference between the parties, on such terms, and with such directions, as to appointment of an Arbitrator and other things, as may seem fit, and may, if it thinks fit, take from the parties, or any of them, security to abide by the result of the reference.

In any such case the award shall be final and conclusive.

On the application of any party a decree of the Court may be entered in conformity with the award, and such decree shall not be open to any appeal or rehearing whatever, except on the ground that it is not in conformity with the award.

Every agreement for reference to arbitration or submission to arbitration by consent may, on the application of any party, be made a rule of a Court having jurisdiction in the matter of the reference or submission, which Court shall thereupon have power and authority to enforce the agreement or submission and the award made thereunder, and to control and regulate the proceedings before and after the award in such manner, and on such terms, as may be just.

20. No proceeding under this Order shall be invalidated by any informality, mistake, or omission, so long as, in the opinion of the Court before which any question arises, the essential requisites of law and justice have been complied with, or may be met by amendment.

PART V.—SPECIAL POWERS (BANKRUPTCY, PROBATE, &c.).

21. A District Court shall be a Court of Bankruptcy, and as such shall, as far as circumstances admit, have for and within its own district, with respect to British subjects and to their debtors and creditors, being either British subjects or foreigners submitting to the jurisdiction of the Court, all such jurisdiction as for the time being belongs to any judicial authority having for the time being jurisdiction in bankruptcy in England.

22. A District Court shall have, and may exercise, for and within its own district, with respect to British subjects, all the powers, rights, and duties appertaining to the office of Coroner in England, but it shall not be necessary to summon a jury in holding any inquest.

23. The District Court at Bangkok shall be a Vice-Admiralty Court, and as such shall, for and within Siam, and for vessels and persons coming to and within Siam, have all such jurisdiction as for the time being ordinarily belongs to Vice-Admiralty Courts in Her Majesty's possessions abroad.

The said Court shall have all powers and jurisdiction which can be exercised by Justices or a Vice-Admiralty Court under or for the purposes of the Acts relating to merchant shipping or the Passenger Acts, or relating to quarantine.

24. The District Court at Bangkok shall, so far as circumstances admit, have for and within

Siam, with respect to British subjects, all such jurisdiction relative to the custody and management of the persons and estates of persons of unsound mind as for the time being belongs to the Lord Chancellor or other person or persons, in England entrusted with the care and commitment of the custody of the persons and estates of persons found, by inquisition in England, idiot, lunatic, or of unsound mind.

25.—(1.) The District Court at Bangkok shall be a Court of Probate, and as such shall, as far as circumstances admit, have for and within Siam, with respect to the property of British subjects having at the time of death their fixed places of abode in Siam, all such jurisdiction as for the time being belongs to the Probate Division of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice in England.

(2.) Every District Court shall also have power to grant probate or administration, where there is no contention respecting the right to the grant, and it is proved on oath that the deceased had at the time of his death his fixed place of abode within the jurisdiction of the District Court.

26. Probate or administration granted by a Court shall have effect over all the property of the deceased within Siam, and shall effectually discharge persons dealing with an executor or administrator thereunder, and that notwithstanding any defect afterwards appears in the grant.

Such a grant shall not be impeachable by reason only that the deceased had not at the time of his death his fixed place of abode within the particular jurisdiction.

27. Any person having in his possession or under his control any paper or writing of a deceased British subject, being or purporting to be testamentary, shall forthwith deliver the original to the District Court within the district whereof such person is at the time of his first knowledge of the death of the deceased, and deposit it there.

Any person neglecting to do so for fourteen days after having knowledge of the death of the deceased shall be liable to such penalty, not exceeding fifty pounds, as the Court thinks fit to impose.

28. From the death of a British subject, having at the time of death his fixed place of abode in Siam, intestate, until administration granted, his personal property in Siam shall be vested in the Consul-General.

29. If any person, other than one of Her Majesty's Consular officers, takes possession of or in any manner administers any part of the personal property of any person deceased without obtaining probate or administration within three months after the death of the deceased, or within one month after the termination of any suit or dispute respecting probate or administration (if there is any such which is not ended within two months after the death of the deceased), he shall be liable to such penalty, not exceeding one hundred pounds, as the Court having jurisdiction in the matter of the property of the deceased thinks fit to impose; and in every such case the same fees shall be payable by the person so administering as would have been payable by him if he had obtained probate or administration.

30. Where a British subject, not having at the time of death his fixed place of abode in Siam, dies there, the District Court within whose district he dies shall, where the circumstances of the case appear to the Court so to require, forthwith on the death of the deceased, or as