

CHAPTER XXII.

OF DISPUTES RELATING TO THE POSSESSION OF LAND OR THE RIGHT OF USE OF ANY LAND OR WATER.

318. Whenever the Magistrate of the District or other Officer exercising the powers of a Magistrate shall be satisfied that a dispute, likely to induce a breach of the peace, exists concerning any land, premises, water, fisheries, crops, or other produce of land, within the limits of his jurisdiction, he shall record a proceeding stating the grounds of his being so satisfied, and shall call on all parties concerned in such dispute to attend his Court in person, or by agent, within a time to be fixed by the Magistrate or other Officer as aforesaid, and to give in a written statement of their respective claims, as respects the fact of actual possession of the subject of dispute. The Magistrate or other Officer as aforesaid, shall, without reference to the merits of the claims of any party to a right of possession, proceed to enquire which party is in possession of the subject of dispute, and after satisfying himself upon that point, shall record a proceeding declaring the party whom he may decide to be in such possession, to be entitled to retain possession until ousted by due course of law, and forbidding all disturbance of possession until such time.

319. If the Magistrate or other Officer as aforesaid shall decide that neither of the parties is in possession, or shall be unable to satisfy himself as to which person is in possession of the subject of dispute, he may attach the subject of dispute until a competent Civil Court shall have determined the rights of the parties or who ought to be in possession.

320. If a dispute arise concerning the right of use of any land or water, the Magistrate or other Officer as aforesaid within whose jurisdiction the subject of dispute lies

Magistrate how to proceed if any dispute concerning land, &c., is likely to cause breach of the peace.

Party in possession to be continued until ousted by the course of law.

If previous possession cannot be ascertained, Magistrate may attach subject of dispute.

Disputes concerning right of use of land or water.

may enquire into the matter, and if it shall appear to him that the subject of dispute is open to the use of the public, or of any person, or of any class of persons, the Magistrate or other Officer may order that possession thereof shall not be taken or retained by any party to the exclusion of the public, or of such person, or of such class of persons, as the case may be, until the party claiming such possession shall obtain the decision of a competent Court adjudging him to be entitled to such exclusive possession. Provided that the Magistrate or other Officer as aforesaid shall not pass any such order if the matter be such that the right of use is capable of being exercised at all times of the year, unless that right shall have been ordinarily exercised within three months from the date of the institution of the enquiry, or in cases where the right of use exists at particular seasons unless such right has been exercised during the last of such seasons before the complaint.

**Saving of powers
of Collectors and
Revenue Courts.**

321. Nothing in this Chapter shall affect the powers of a Collector or a person exercising the powers of a Collector, or of a Revenue Court.