

1957

Present: Weerasooriya, J., and Sansoni, J.

KANAKASABAI, Appellant, and CADER, Respondent

S. C. 39—D. C. (Inty.) Matale, 210/M.B.

Mortgage Act, No. 6 of 1949—Sections 49, 50 (4), 61 (1)—Hypothecary sale—Application to set it aside for material irregularity—Power of Court to hear objections—Civil Procedure Code, s. 282 (2).

Where mortgaged land is directed to be sold by the Fiscal without being previously seized as provided in section 49 of the Mortgage Act, and application is subsequently made to set aside the sale when it has taken place, section 282(2) of the Civil Procedure Code is applicable by virtue of section 61(1) of the Mortgage Act and precludes the Court from inquiring into any objections not notified to Court within 30 days of the receipt of the Fiscal's report relating to the sale.

APPPEAL from an order of the District Court, Matale.

S. B. Yatawara, for plaintiff-appellant.

P. Somatilakam, with *V. J. Martyn*, for defendant-respondent.

Cur. adv. vult.

September 19, 1957. WEERASOORIYA, J.—

This is an appeal by the plaintiff from an order of the District Judge of Matale setting aside a sale held in execution of the decree entered in the case. The property sold was that mortgaged with the plaintiff on the two bonds sued upon, and the sale was subject to two earlier bonds, also in favour of the plaintiff, for securing other loans of Rs. 13,000 and Rs. 1,000 respectively on which, according to the evidence given by the plaintiff, interest had accrued to the amount of Rs. 7,000 at the time of the filing of the present action.

The only substantial ground of objection to the sale specified in the application to have it set aside was that the sale had not been duly advertised. But at the inquiry held into the application counsel for the defendant proceeded to raise various other objections to the sale despite the submission of the plaintiff's proctor that the defendant was, as a matter of law, restricted to the particular objections specified in his application. One of the new objections raised was the alleged non-compliance with the provisions of section 50 (4) of the Mortgage Act, No. 6 of 1949, which require that the person conducting the sale shall first put up the land for sale at the current market value of the land as appraised by him or by the Court, as the case may be; and it was only on this ground that the learned District Judge made the order setting aside the sale.

As the mortgaged land had in this case been directed to be sold by the Fiscal without being previously seized as provided by section 49 of the Mortgage Act, section 282 (*inter alia*) of the Civil Procedure Code applied to the sale by virtue of section 61 (1) of the Mortgage Act. It was necessary, therefore, as required by section 282 (2) of the Civil Procedure Code, that the grounds of objection to the sale should be notified to Court within thirty days of the receipt of the Fiscal's report relating to the sale, and the Court was precluded from inquiring into any objection not so notified. This alone would, in my opinion, be sufficient reason for setting aside the order appealed from. But even considering the objection on its merits all that could be urged is that the report of the officer who held the sale did not specifically state that he first put up the land for sale at its appraised value. But he has given evidence at the inquiry that he duly did so and that there were no bidders at that figure. His evidence on the point has not been contradicted even by the defendant who himself gave evidence and said that he was present at the sale. Taking this evidence in conjunction with the omission to refer to this matter in the objections set out in the application for the sale to be set aside (and it is inconceivable that if the officer conducting the sale had been guilty of such a vital irregularity the objection would not have been taken at the first available opportunity) the probability appears to be that the land was put up for sale at the appraised value.

The order appealed from is set aside with costs in both Courts.

SANSONI, J.—I agree.

Order set aside.
