

cessantly calling for year by year, since 1882, is an Equitable Dominion Bankruptcy Act for the whole Confederation of Canada, which while giving the creditors the full control of an estate that is evidently insolvent will prevent fraudulent preferences, punish reckless selling, compel proper book-keeping and yet give a discharge to the man who has honestly given up his estate to his creditors, and not been guilty of either reckless selling, fraudulent buying, or extravagant living. Such a Bill as this has been drafted by a united Committee of the Boards of Trade of Canada and brought before the notice of the late lamented Sir John Thompson who promised to give this important subject his early attention, but unfortunately for Canada, the angel of death cruelly and suddenly snatched him away from what promised to be a long career of usefulness. The present Premier, however, consented to take up the matter, but it is to be regretted, that so far, though a Bill has been prepared that largely fills the wants of the trading community, this much needed legislation has not been presented to the notice of the House of Commons.

Meantime the need of a sound Bankruptcy Bill is deeply felt. The passing of such a Bill will greatly advance that interprovincial trade which every patriotic Canadian desires to promote, will reduce to a minimum, fraudulent and reckless trading, and will powerfully help forward the commercial progress of the country. May I not ask how much longer shall the Commerce of the country call, before this needed Bill shall become the law of the land.

The Question of Cheaper Postage has been under the notice of the Council, and after careful deliberation upon the merits of the case, the Council decided to join with the sister Board of Montreal in requesting the Dominion Government to consider the advisability of reducing the city rate to one cent per ounce, as it was evident that at the present rate Toronto has been heavily overcharged, and that the Government is really losing profitable business. Many commercial firms find it cheaper to distribute much of their city correspondence per messenger boys, rather than pay the present excessive rate of two cents per ounce. The Council further thought that it would be in the interests of the country to lower the general rate to two cents per ounce, as experience has proved that the lower the rate the greater the correspondence, and ultimately the greater profit to the Mail Service. This would be also a practical method of helping forward the time when there would be a uniform penny postage over the whole Postal Union.

It may be interesting to note that the following represents the present Postal business done in Toronto:

	1894	1895
Total number of letters.....	14,307,774	14,611,194
Post Cards	4,180,332	4,280,120
Books, Circulars, etc.,....	10,338,926	9,651,694
Parcel Post	284,778	294,944
Registered Letters.....	252,776	249,652