

LETTER I.

INSOLVENCY LAWS.

Shown to be wrong on account of their necessary relation to the dispensing of credit, leading to overtrading and all its attendant evils

In replying to a deputation which, a few weeks ago, waited upon the Government at Ottawa to advocate the enactment of the proposed Insolvency Bill before the House, the Premier spoke of the apathy of traders and the public generally regarding the subject. It is certainly very surprising that apparent indifference should be maintained in so important a matter, and seems only to be accounted for on the ground that people do not reflect upon it, or fail to recognize its bearing and the principles involved.

The main points in this Bill being the usual provisions, that when a person is unable to pay his debts in full it secures that what he possesses shall be distributed, *pro rata*, among his creditors, thus preventing one or more creditors taking what will satisfy their claims while the other creditors get little or perhaps nothing, and the debtor, having gone through the prescribed form and ostensibly given up all he had, be declared in the eyes of the law to be free of liability:——it seems to be a very innocent thing indeed, in fact a most commendable provision to make on our statute books. It appears on the face of it so just and fair and equal it is deemed supercilious and unkind to question its right to be there, though after all it