

as is too frequently the case in this country, to agitation and mob oratory.

Every council is divided into two main 'bureaux' or sections: the 'bureau particulier' or 'de conciliation,' consisting only of one man and one master, and the 'bureau général' or 'de jugement.' The former, which generally meets once a week, endeavours to settle disputes off hand. If in this way no voluntary agreement can be reached, the case goes to the 'bureau général' for a regular trial, at which witnesses can be examined and judgment is delivered. This bureau is obliged by law to meet at least twice a month, and consists of the president and vice-president and four other members—masters and workmen being again equally represented.

Every Council settles for itself the order which its members are to serve on the two bureaux. The Prud'hommes are practical men with a knowledge of the industries over which they exercise jurisdiction. They are bound by no code or rules of procedure, and no lawyers are employed, and very few cases occupy more than one sitting. They are also invested with power to punish summarily up to three days' imprisonment any disturbance of order or infraction of discipline in workshop or factory. They have also police functions, which, however, are rarely exercised; and may inspect premises and report to the regular tribunals serious breaches of law, such as the disclosure of trade secrets or the theft of materials.

There are 136 of these councils, which dispose of about 42,000 cases in the year. Of these 20,000 were in Paris alone. About 16,000 are amicably settled, about 12,000 voluntarily withdrawn, and only 13,000 or 14,000 referred to the 'bureaux généraux' for judgment. In Paris, the total cost to the municipality is rather more than £8,000 a year, of which £4,992, or £48 each, goes to the 104 Prud'hommes. The summary jurisdiction, from which there is no appeal, extends to cases involving £8 and under; over that amount an appeal lies to the Chamber of Commerce. But M. Lockroy has a bill, now before a committee of the Chamber of Deputies, extending this jurisdiction to £20, and also modifying the franchise for the

election of Prud'hommes. It has not been thought possible to make the council arbiters in strikes, but M. Lockroy is submitting a bill which provides for the constitution of Boards of Arbitration on the English model. M. De Bunsen's report states that great services have been rendered by these bodies; but he also mentions that there is a widely spread fear that the proposed enlargement of functions and extension of the suffrage may lead to political and social dangers. In the large towns, indeed, wirepullers already to a considerable extent control the elections. The whole system is a striking illustration of the democratic character of French society, and arises out of conditions which have never existed in this country. The institution can hardly, therefore, serve as a model for our imitation. It is one thing for a system to have been established under comparatively simple conditions of society; it is quite another to introduce it into so complicated an organisation as our own, with habits and traditions so different from those which prevail in the country of its origin.—*Law Journal (London).*

INSOLVENT NOTICES, ETC.

Quebec Official Gazette, April 26.

Judicial Abandonments.

Charles S. Assinail, manufacturer, Montreal, April 17.
Ephrem Eusèbe Bouchard, Waterloo, April 17.
Wm. Bouchard, trader, Chicoutimi, April 19.
Joseph Philius Perrault, trader, St. Anne de la Péraie, April 24.

Curators appointed.

Re Etienne Beauchemin.—Charles Milot, St. Monique, curator, April 16.
Re Joseph Desaulniers, Shawenegan.—F. Valentine, Three Rivers, curator, April 23.
Re J. S. Murphy.—John Y. Welch, Quebec, curator, April 9.
Re Camille Lalonde, St. Téléphore.—Kent & Turcotte, Montreal, joint curator, April 22.
Re J. B. Lalumière.—C. Desmarteau, Montreal, curator, April 17.
Re Pierre Martineau.—C. Desmarteau, Montreal, curator, April 23.
Re Robert McNabb & Co.—W. A. Caldwell, Montreal, curator, March 15.
Re J. S. Murphy & Co.—John Y. Welch, Quebec, curator, April 9.
Re J. A. Quintal.—C. Desmarteau, Montreal, curator, April 22.
Re W. H. Wilson.—J. Y. Welch, Quebec, curator, April 9.