

get into close quarters with a Presbyterian speculator? Did you ever buy mining stock on the representations of an Episcopalian broker? Did you ever take a man's word any quicker because he was a Baptist or a Roman Catholic?

The belief that the Jew is more dishonest than the Gentile is one-half nonsense and the other half prejudice and falsehood. This anti-Jewish feeling is un-Christian and inhuman. No man can share it who believes in the universal brotherhood of man. It is born of the devil and is detestable.

Yours truly,

A GENTILE.

THE INSOLVENCY BILL.

FOR some years Canadian merchants have been trying to secure a National Insolvency Law which would regulate assignments and bankruptcies in all the provinces according to one law instead of seven, as at present.

At the session of the Dominion Parliament of 1894, a bill was introduced, but although it made much progress in committee it was dropped. The tariff question was the important topic and the Insolvency Bill was crowded out. However, Sir John Thompson, the then Premier, gave the Boards of Trade a solemn assurance that it would be introduced in the session of 1895.

The session of 1895 has arrived, and although Sir John Thompson has passed away to a world where insolvencies are unknown, his colleagues have kept his word for him and have re-introduced the bill in the present session. Premier Bowell took charge of it and spoke in its favor. Nevertheless, its adoption as law is not at all likely, as the opposition in Parliament is very strong.

There is no doubt that the bill is less necessary now than at this time last year. During the interval the highest court in the realm has decided that Ontario's Assignment Law is intra vires of the Ontario Legislature. This law is a good one, and this decision makes Ontario creditors more secure. The Act has been further amended in the present year, as explained in our May issue.

Another reason why a national law is not so necessary is that New Brunswick has enacted a law for the distribution of insolvents' estates which does away with preferences. Next year Nova Scotia may be expected to follow suit.

But in spite of these two improvements in the situation and in spite of the improved condition of trade as rendering a national law less necessary, there are still grave and paramount reasons which make a National Insolvency Law a necessity. The provinces can legislate as to the distribution of assets, but they cannot give a poor insolvent a discharge. The provinces can legislate as to an assignment when it is voluntarily made, but they cannot make laws by which a creditor or a number of them can force an insolvent to assign.

In short, the Dominion Parliament is the Dog in the Manger. By the B. N. A. Act of 1867, bankruptcy legislation is expressly reserved to the Federal Government, and yet it will not enact a law. The prosperity of this country depends on its commerce as much as upon any other one thing, and the tricky politicians and place seekers that fill both sides of each House at Ottawa have only intensified their littleness in their opposition to a bill which would have helped trade a great deal.

A parting word concerning the bankers. They, too, are to be condemned in holding out for conditions which are neither

just nor practicable. They desire to rank with their commercial paper on both estates, retail and wholesale, if both are insolvent. This is preposterous. In sticking to this demand they have helped to knife their best friends. It would be unwise for Canadian bankers to over-reach themselves.

A few days will decide whether the bill will pass or not. But the Toronto Government organ says, on June 3rd, "There seems little prospect that the Senate will consent to the passage of the Insolvency Bill. The measure was strongly opposed last year, but the opposition this year is greater." If Parliament fails to pass the bill, the Boards of Trade will bite their lips and remain Grits and Tories still. Some day business may be placed before politics, and then the mercantile laws will be just and equitable.

CANADIAN OIL-CLOTH.

We have called attention before to a tendency in Canadians to underrate the value of their own manufactures. This is a fault often betrayed by the public at large in preferring an imported to a home article. In addition, Canadian material is sometimes regarded coldly by the wholesale trade. This, in many instances, is a decided mistake.

In many lines home manufacturing has been brought to a high standard of excellence, and it is grossly unfair to overlook this and assume that imported goods are superior and should be preferred. It is true that there are cases where quality and price have been too much for cast-iron prejudice, and the Canadian article has gradually won the trade. No instance of this success is more conspicuous than oil-cloth. During the last ten years the oil-cloths made in Canada have grown in favor. To-day our own oil-cloths are the equal of any. The table oil-cloths are, in reality, superior to either American or English, and supply, as they deserve to do, practically the entire Canadian demand. In floor-cloths the standard reached is equally high, and those who use the imported article do so either from some inherited taste, which they are bound to indulge at any cost, or because they have never closely inquired into the merits of the various makes, and buy from sheer ignorance. This is a phase of the matter which a little fair, judicious enlightenment on the part of the trade can do much to alter.

These references to the value of Canadian goods apply equally well to more lines than oil-cloths, but we take this because it is a noteworthy example. The Canadian industry has done much for the consumer and deserves well of him. It has brought down the prices at which American goods used to be sold, and has turned out a first-class article made in our own country. Let justice be done in such cases to Canadian achievements both by the trade and the consumer.

AN ADVANCE IMPERATIVE.

John H. Parks, St. John, writing to THE REVIEW, says: "There seems to be a little improvement in the volume of business, but no advances in prices as yet. The advance in cotton makes an advance in price imperative before long."

GIVE US YOUR HAND.

If you are with us, give us your hand. Our Second Window Dressing Competition closes August 1st. If you win, you get \$20 in cash. If you lose, you know that you have helped to make successful a competition intended to encourage window dressing.