

THE INSOLVENCY QUESTION.

A committee of the Montreal Board of Trade, of which James A. Cantlie is chairman, has presented the following special report on the insolvency question:

"The committee on insolvency legislation begs to report that considerable progress has been made during the present year in the direction of an Act to secure uniformity throughout the Dominion on this important matter of liquidations in insolvency, a bill having been prepared under the direction of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and introduced by him in the Senate in the early part of the last session of the Federal Parliament.

"Copies of the bill having been sent to the various Boards of Trade of Canada by the Hon. Mr. Bowell, this committee, in conjunction with similar committees appointed by other Boards of Trade, named a delegation who appeared before the Senate Committee and laid before it objections to certain clauses of the bill, and such suggestions as were considered to be necessary to bring the bill into harmony with the requirements of the commerce and industry of the Dominion. A delegation from the Canadian Bankers' Association was also present and stated the views of that body on the measure.

"As a consequence of the various suggestions made at this meeting, the bill was recast and most of the additions suggested by the delegates incorporated therein.

"The bill was then discussed at great length by the Senate Committee at numerous sittings, most of which were attended by representatives from this and the Toronto Committee, and it was finally passed by the Senate and sent to the Lower House.

"As a considerable difference of opinion appeared to exist as to whether the Act should apply to traders only or to debtors generally, and as opposition was threatened to this section in the House of Commons, the Government decided to reprint the bill as finally amended, and to reintroduce it next session, considering that permanency would be better secured if the proposed legislation had been previously submitted to, and considered by, the community generally during the parliamentary vacation.

"An active opposition is, however, threatened by some bankers to that part of the bill which refers to the collocation of claims and the valuation of security.

"The contention of these bankers is that they should be allowed to rank for dividends on the full amount of all notes held by them, and that no account should be required by the liquidator until such claim has been paid in full.

"This, in the majority of estates, would mean that the bank would be paid in full, and the dividend to other creditors correspondingly diminished, which your committee considers is contrary to fair business principles, inasmuch as the banker, from the nature of his business, is generally the first to become aware of any financial weakness in his client's affairs, and is enabled thereby to take steps to place the account on more solid ground than is possible to the ordinary creditor.

"In order to prevent any important changes in the bill as passed by the Senate, it will be necessary that provision be made for a representative of your Board to be present at Ottawa during the next session of Parliament, whenever this measure is under discussion and until it is finally passed. The banking interest is represented by eminent counsel, and although Mr. D. E. Thompson, Q.C., representing the Toronto Board, did yeoman service in favor of the principles advocated by this Committee, it is not fair that the defence of our common interests should be left to any considerable extent to a sister Board."

THE *Montreal Star* says: A. P. Willis, of Montreal, accompanied by W. C. Motley, an expert who attended the Industrial Exhibition for the purpose of purchasing pianos, completed a contract on Saturday with the R. S. Williams (Toronto), and Bell (Guelph) piano manufacturers for 1,000 pianos and 500 organs, which are to be put on the market in Eastern Ontario, the Province of Quebec, and the lower provinces. This is the largest purchase of the kind ever made in Canada.

AMERICAN TEXTILE PATENTS.

The following list of patents granted by the United States Patent Office for inventions relative to textiles and textile machinery is reported for THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF FABRICS, by Glascock & Co., patent attorneys, Washington, D.C., of whom printed copies can be obtained for 25 cents each.—

M. Duesberg Delrez, Maurice, Belgium, apparatus for setting teeth in card clothing.

J. D. Tomlinson, Rochdale, England, machine for raising the surface of textile fabrics.

J. Vannette, Tiffin, Ohio, sewing machine.

J. T. Hogan, Jersey City, N.J., buttonhole sewing machine feeding mechanism.

G. A. Stafford, Montague, Tex., sewing machine quilting mechanism.

W. A. O'Brien, Boston, Mass., union garment and knitting same.

S. Jaros, Hartford, Conn., knitting machine.

H. Vogelsang, Dulken, Germany, loom heddle.

H. Wenzel, Scholinde, Hungary, loom shedding mechanism.

M. Cramby, Bradford, England, apparatus for cutting patterns for cloth.

J. B. Price, Wollaston, Mass., sewing machine.

G. H. Scetrini and G. Cade, London, England, sewing machine.

A. Hitchon, Accrington, England, separator mechanism for spinning frames

J. Cain, Utica, N.Y., spinning machine roll.

WOOL LUSTERING.

In the steaming of woollens and worsteds, says "Randolph" in the *Boston Journal of Commerce*, certain very important changes take place which so effectually alter the condition of the fibre that the finish and appearance of the fabric are permanently changed. In order to get at a better notion of the process and of what it means and implies, and in order also to see more clearly what conditions are most favorable to a truly good and thorough finish as obtained by this method of treatment, it is necessary to look at the steam lustering in the details of its effects and action upon the fibres of which the cloth is made.

The finish, which is the peculiar result of the steam-lustering process, owes its individual characteristics wholly to the influence of the process upon the fibres. The fibres take a certain change as the process proceeds, and as the fibres are altered so the finish is regulated. The only way to get at the bottom of the nature of the finish is thus to try to discover some of these fibre alterations which every steaming entails.

In the first place the steam lustering has the effect of hardening or compacting the individual fibre. At first this may not seem true, for every one knows that steam is the very agent employed to take away hardness and glaze, and render the fabric soft and pliable. But when this is the result, it must be remembered that the steam is applied under very different circumstances and conditions, and these different conditions are what make all the difference in the kind of finish which results. In the simple matter of steaming the fabric is steamed in the open air and is subjected to no pressure, while in steam lustering the steam is applied only after the cloth is securely wrapped in a tight wrapper and inclosed from the surrounding air, and also after it has been well rolled on the iron roller under a tension of considerable extent. These two differences must be noted, and then the apparent paradox is at once explained. The fact thus remains that the steam lustering has the effect of hardening the fibres and of imparting in this way an agreeable and moderate amount of material lustre or gloss. The extent of this effect will vary according to the nature of the fibre and the length of time during which it is exposed to the action of the steam. There is a tendency of the steam in connection with moisture, and the inclosure within the confined limits of a tightly wound roll and wrapper, to contract the scales or laminae on the external surface of the fibre, and this results in a hardening and accompanying glazing or lustering of the fibre. The two elements whose action leads