

You will note that out of \$6,129 realized only \$2,599 found its way to the creditors.

Mr. SPENCE: That is the custom.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have heard all the witnesses available with the exception of Mr. Wegenast, the representative of the York County Bar Association. He is before the Banking and Commerce Committee of the Senate where the Insurance Act is under discussion.

Apart from Mr. Wegenast I think we have just about exhausted the quota of witnesses. There is Mr. Nantel, who is the secretary of the Committee of the Canadian Bar Association which made the investigation and furnished the material upon which this Bill is based. He will be available on Tuesday morning if that meets the convenience of the Committee. Unless some of the many gentlemen with whom we have communicated come I think we may probably not have to hear witnesses on more than one day after this.

The Committee adjourned to meet at 3.30.

#### AFTERNOON SITTING

The Committee resumed at 3.30 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: We have as our witness this afternoon Mr. F. W. Wegenest, of the York County law association, and I will call on him now.

F. W. WEGENEST, called.

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman and gentleman, I am here at the behest of the York County Law Association. York County as some of you may not know is the county which contains the well-known city of Toronto, and Toronto in turn contains more than half the lawyers of Ontario; and while I do not claim to express the personal views of every lawyer in Toronto, I can say that the matter of the amendments, and more particularly the form of the memorandum prepared by the Canadian Bar Association, has been considered at several meetings of the council which is a large and rather representative body, and I am commanded to put their views before you. I am a little doubtful whether what I have to say merits all the trouble you have taken, Mr. Chairman, and that I have taken to be here. I understand there was one meeting this week at which I was supposed to attend. By some mistake, which I cannot explain yet, I did not know that the meeting was on that day. I was in the city, as a matter of fact, with the idea of trying to work it so that I could be here and at a meeting of the Senate Banking and Commerce committee at the same time.

The York County Law Association thinks that it is not necessary to have a superintendent of bankruptcy or a department of bankruptcy. They agree that it is desirable that there should be some form of inspection or checking up of the activities of the trustees, and they think that the Minister should have at his command an official something like the Inspector of Legal Officers in Ontario, whose function some of you know and the rest can imagine. I might say that if the sheriff or bailiff of the court or an official connected with any of the offices in Toronto is found failing in his duty, somebody writes a letter to the Inspector of Legal Officers and the matter is investigated and made right. He also makes periodical visits. It was thought by the York County Law Association that something like that would be sufficient in the meantime, at all events, until the necessity for some elaborate organization should appear, and if an official of that kind were available to check up the delinquents it would not be necessary to proceed with the scheme of licensing trustees against which there are objections, which have, no doubt, been discussed here. I am at a dis-