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DIAMONDS IN ONTARIO.

THOSE of our readers who have either listened to or read that splendid lecture of the Rev. Russell Conway, entitled "Acres of Diamonds," will remember that the keystone of the whole discourse, was the moral of the original story about the discovery of the diamond mines of Golconda, that people are very apt to look abroad for opportunities of advancement whereas perhaps they may be overlooking much better opportunities right at their own doors.

This lecture with all its wealth of illustration and fact, was vividly recalled to our memory the other day by a paper read before the Canadian Institute last month by Mr. Archibald B. Blue, chief of the Bureau of Mines for the province of Ontario. The subject of Mr. Blue's paper was "Are there Diamonds in Ontario?" and it was a most interesting collection of facts and references in regard to this subject. He described in detail the characteristics of a country in which diamonds are to be found, illustrating this by a description of the mines of Kimberley, South Africa, as an example. He showed that some parts of Ontario exhibit very similar characteristics to that of Kimberley, and their geological formation is of such a nature that it is not improbable that diamonds might some day

become a product of this province. Mr. Blue also told of the finding of diamonds in parts of the States of Wisconsin and Michigan.

Nothing is apparently impossible to Nature, and we should not be one particle astonished if some day this province should be found to have diamond mines equal to those of South Africa or anywhere else. If we remember rightly, geologists told us that it was impossible that the African diamond mines could be any good. They asserted that diamonds had never been found in the hard blue clay such as obtains in the Kimberley mines, and the whole thing was either a mistake or a swindle. The reply of the African miners was, "Well, that may be all right in theory, but how are you going to get over the fact that we are actually getting diamonds in quantities hitherto undreamed of out of a geological formation that you say contains none?"

This was not a theory, but a condition, and, as usual, the scientists had to take backwater when they ran up against facts that could not be disputed. It is just possible that Canada may have diamond mines. Scientists used to tell us that we had no gold mines, yet we have demonstrated to the world that we have plenty of them, and the fact that we are now the fourth country in the world in the production of the precious metals is proof enough that they are not always right. In the meantime, until our domestic diamond mines turn up, we shall endeavor to worry along in the same old way and use the imported article.

THE WANT OF A BANKRUPT ACT.

THE member for East York, Mr. W. F. McLean, last month introduced a bill into the Dominion Parliament for the relief of insolvents, and the equitable settlement of their estates. As our readers are aware, such a measure has been demanded by the mercantile community of this country, as voiced through their various boards of trade, for a number of years past, but notwithstanding all this there seems to be some unaccountable reason why the Government are averse to giving it their sanction and endorsement.

As a matter of fact, it is generally admitted that if a man becomes *honestly* insolvent and *honestly* abandons his estate to his creditors, there is no valid reason why he should not get a clearance from his creditors and be allowed to start afresh again with a clean sheet.

On the other hand looked at from the standpoint of his creditors, all that they want or can reasonably expect, is that the entire estate of the insolvent shall be fairly and economically divided amongst them *pro-rata*.

It surely should not be very difficult to reconcile the differences between the insolvent and his creditors, and as a matter of fact, it is not. It has been arranged time and again to their mutual satisfaction, but the drawback to the passage of such an act seems to come from two widely different sources. First, from the banking community, who practically want to be legislated into a large pull over the ordinary creditors, and second, the farmers, who oppose it because they think that men of their occupation should have exactly the same rights in