

interesting if the board were put in possession of all the arguments against the establishment of a mint, together with further arguments in its favor.

Insolvency Legislation. Since 1882 this Board has agitated in favor of a Dominion Bankruptcy Act, which would give creditors the full control of an estate that is insolvent, preventing fraudulent preferences, and give a discharge to a man who had honestly given up his estate to his creditors. A Dominion Bankruptcy Bill is needed; it would be of assistance in the commercial progress of the country and of international importance. I do not think any good reason can be advanced why the Government should not take up this question at its next session, and bring it to a successful issue.

The Board for some years past has persistently advocated a British Pacific Cable between Canada and Australasia; this country, through the Imperial Pacific Cable Committee of 1896, signified its willingness to assume an equal share with Great Britain in the cost and responsibility of this project. Through the hesitancy of the British Government in assuming their share of joint ownership and management of the enterprise as a State institution, the Council, by resolution, urged upon the Dominion Government during the last session, the importance of taking full powers from Parliament to enable them to enter into any contracts and agreements that might be necessary, in order that this important commercial and imperial work might be carried through without delay, and it was further urged that efforts should be made to induce the Imperial Government to adhere to the plan outlined and recommended by the Imperial Cable Committee of 1896.

I had the pleasure of waiting upon the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Hon. Mr. Mulock, in order to support the views of the Council. You will be glad to be reminded that the Government did take action, and by a bill which was introduced by the Hon. Mr. Mulock and passed during the last session, the responsibility of carrying out this project is thrown upon the Governments of Australasia and Great Britain, but chiefly the latter, for I think that if the Imperial Government would take this question up in earnest and disregard the arguments of those who are directly and indirectly interested in existing cables to Australasia, that something of a practical nature would result.

The Act passed by the Dominion Parliament at its last session, authorized the Governor-in-Council to enter into an agreement with the Governments of the United Kingdom and Her Majesty's Australasian possessions, for the purpose of carrying out this project by a Board of Commissioners, to be composed of eight members, organized under the authority of the Imperial Parliament. Of the eight Commissioners, two were to be chosen by the Canadian Government; three by the Imperial Government, and the other three by other contributing parties. Canada is to provide $\frac{5}{18}$ part of the total principal money and to share to the extent of $\frac{5}{18}$ in the profit and loss of the enterprise; the balance of the money required to be subscribed by the other Governments interested.

At the request of the Minister of Inland Revenue, the **Metric System.** Council had under consideration the merits of this system. It is used in some of the most important nations of the world, amongst them being France, Germany, Austria and Italy. It has been authorized but never adopted in the United States, and a number of the Chambers of Commerce in Great Britain are in favor of its adoption by the Imperial Government. The Committee having the matter under consideration, recommended that in order to prepare us for a change at some future time, the pupils of our common schools should be taught to familiarize themselves with its use. Should the United States and Great Britain adopt this system, we would