

not get his discharge unless he paid 10s. to the pound, and that discharge need not necessarily be final; and in this connection he cited a number of facts to illustrate the working of the present law in England. Now, he continued, it was urged that if we swept away the regulations now in force in this country we would throw open the door to fraud, and disorganize trade, and that it was more expedient to amend the law; but to that argument he must reply at once that the law was not susceptible to amendment. The experience of the past, here and in England, went to show that it is an exceedingly difficult thing to deal with the question, and that it is dubious whether a permanent bankruptcy law is desirable. So far as the present Act was concerned, it was justly complained that it was not under proper *surveillance*, that it did not come within the jurisdiction of the courts in such a way as to be carried out satisfactorily. The fact was, as he stated previously, that it was a hybrid system; a large portion of the law was accomplished outside of the courts, in a very unsatisfactory way. One of the most prominent Assignees of the city of Montreal, was now bound over to answer to a charge of forgery; his apology is that he has not done anything more than the other assignees have been accustomed to do, and that he has been acting in the interests of the public. Under such circumstances it was easily seen that there was no security for the public in the system, inasmuch as it was not under the supervision of a properly qualified tribunal but was carried out by persons of no responsibility. The law was not adapted to the circumstances of Quebec any more than it appeared to be suited to the whole Dominion. Inasmuch as it could not be made to work satisfactorily as a uniform law, it was best to sweep it off the statute book altogether. Then, if there seemed to be a necessity for it, we could endeavor to mature a more satisfactory system for the arrangement of matters between debtors and creditor, so that justice should to be done to all parties—a system which would be in harmony with the general jurisprudence of the provinces, and in accordance with the commercial interests of the whole Dominion.

On motion of Hon. Mr. SANBORN, seconded by Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST, it was

Ordered,—That further debate on the said motion be postponed until to-morrow.

A message was brought from the House of Commons with the following Bills:

An Act to amend the Act respecting the Statutes of Canada.

An Act to incorporate the Canadian Railway Equipment Company.

An Act to amend the Act respecting the Civil Service of Canada.

An Act respecting the Public Debt, and the raising of Loans authorized by Parliament.

The House then adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, May 22.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at one p.m.

BREACH OF PRIVILEGES.

After routine,

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL moved that the Speaker issue his warrant for the arrest of W. Lount, the witness, who had refused to be examined before the Divorce Committee, and thereby committed a breach of the privileges of the House. Carried.

DOMINION NOTES.

On motion of Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL, the Dominion Notes Bill was read a third time and passed.

INSOLVENCY LAWS.

Hon. Mr. WARK read the following motion, of which he had given notice on a previous day:

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to appoint a Commission of competent persons, whose duty it shall be under the direction of the Minister of Justice, to inquire into the operation of the Insolvent Act, and recommend such amendments as may appear necessary; the same to be embodied in a Bill to be submitted to Parliament at its next Session.

The hon. gentleman gave a brief review of the history of the Insolvency Laws, in the Province of New Brunswick. He argued that it was the wisest policy, not to repeal a law because it did not work altogether well, but to consider how it might be amended so as to promote the public interests. He found that the public opinion of the country was divided on the question, that the repealing Bill had only passed by a very narrow majority in the Commons; and under those circumstances it was not wise to repeal it altogether. The result would only lead to a state of things far worse than could possibly arise under the law. He did not wish to